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www.bridgend-today.co.uk www.porthcawl-today.co.uk THURSDAY, MAY 5TH, 2011

120 operations cancelled as Princess of Wales hospital is hit by ward bed shortages

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

A FREEDOM of information request submitted by The GEM has revealed that more than 120 operations had to be cancelled at the Princess of Wales Hospital over a six-month period – because of bed shortages.

We asked the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, which runs hospital and GP services in the area, how many elective surgical operations of all types had been cancelled between September last year and February this year.

The smallest number of cancellations was in September with seven but from then on, the number rose – with January having 26 and February 51.

Staff at the hospital have been claiming for some time that the hospital does not have enough beds following the closure of some wards in recent years.

They claim that any emergency has bed managers scurrying around the wards desperately trying to free up beds for new patients waiting on trolleys in the emergency department.

Earlier research has revealed that the Bridgend area has lost more than 200 beds over the past 25 years as a result of hospital closures like Blackmill, Cefn Hirgoed, Merthyr Mawr Road and Bridgend General.

The impending loss of the last 20 beds at Maesgwyn, when the hospital closes by the end of May, could exacerbate the position, although health chiefs are adamant that things are now being done differently, with resources being put into keeping people at home, rather than admitting them to hospital.

Care teams are now dispatched to people's homes if their GP decides that this is suitable.

But the question of elective surgery is different, because people awaiting all types of operations, including those for cancer, are seeing them cancelled because there are no beds available for them within the hospital.

A spokesman for the board said that the position had deteriorated in February, despite the board increasing bed capacity as part of its winter plan.

The statement went on: "But this was unfortunately insufficient to meet the peak experienced in flu admissions, combined with the impact of Norovirus in some areas.

"The after-effects of a period of extremely cold weather were also experienced, which led to an increased demand on trauma and respiratory services.

"This was combined with fragile staffing levels due to sickness and also shortages of bank and agency staff.

"All of these factors combined to result in severe capacity pressures, which had a knock-on impact that meant it was necessary to cancel elective operations, to enable staff to concentrate on clinically urgent and cancer cases. Since February, the position has improved significantly."

A further question asked by The GEM under FoI procedures concerned the number of district (community) nurses now covering the Bridgend area, compared to how many there were in 2000.

The board has replied that its does not have the data back to 2000 and cannot break down the figures for each particular area without having to take an excessive amount of time.

It is only obliged to spend up to 18 hours obtaining answers to FOI requests.

The information it has supplied shows that throughout the ABM area in 2006, when health care was provided by two separate trusts – Bro Morgannwg in Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot and the Swansea Trust – the figure was 859 and in 2011, the figure is 831 – a drop of 28.

There is no indication within the reply whether some of the 28 posts are unfilled and are being advertised, or whether the posts have been axed.

A reduction in community nurses, as indicated in the reply, would seem to run counter to the new policy of having more care in the community, in order to either stop people going into hospital at all, or of discharging them quickly back to their homes where they will be cared for by community-based staff.

Park's Friends combat vandals

THE newly-formed Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park have organised a day of action to improve an area of the park.

They will be working alongside volunteer BT apprentices to clear the amphitheatre of brambles, weeds and litter.

The event takes place on May 13.

Lynne Harris-Seal, who is treasurer, said that current town mayor Phil John is an enthusiastic member of the group.

The amphitheatre was created by the miners during the 1926 strike and initially housed a bandstand. The skateboard park is now located there.

The Friends want to reclaim the area from the vandals and underage drinkers, who now plague the park and make the area family-friendly once again.

The Friends have been inviting people to join up, including pupils at local schools. Anyone interested in joining can telephone Lynne on 07582 110979.

Royal celebrations across borough!

ABOVE: These young ladies were enjoying a royal wedding party in a seafront house at Porthcawl. (Photograph by GLYN EVANS).

• Following the national celebrations last week, this week's GEM has an eight-page royal wedding supplement, and lots of party pictures from around the county boroughs of Bridgend and the Vale.

BRIDGEND VOTERS WILL HAVE THEIR SAY AT POLLS

POLLING takes place today (Thursday) in the elections for the Welsh Assembly.

Voters in Bridgend and Ogmore, and throughout Wales, are being asked to vote twice – once for the first-past-the-post candidate and a second vote just for a party.

The regional candidates for the Assembly are elected under this top-up system. Bridgend and Ogmore are both within the South Wales West region.

Both constituencies have four candidates from the main parties – Labour, Conservative, Plaid Cymru and Liberal Democrats.

The first-past-the-post candidates in each seat are as follows:

Bridgend – Briony Jane Davies, Lib Dem; Carwyn Jones, Labour; Tim Thomas, Plaid Cymru and Alexander Williams, Conservative.

Ogmore – Danny Clark, Plaid Cymru; Gerald Leslie Francis, Lib Dem; Janice Gregory, Labour and Martyn Hughes, Conservative.

The regional list contains a great many other parties who are not fielding first past the post candidates. In all, there are 11 parties on the list.

*** Voters will be given a third ballot paper – to vote Yes or No to changing the voting system for elections to Parliament from current first past the post system to the alternative vote.**

FORGET THE X-FACTOR... Who wants to be town crier?

THE Town Crier audition organised by Porthcawl Town Council to find a replacement for Debbie Trindle, who has resigned on health grounds, had to be cancelled because no-one entered.

But the council has since been approached by Mark Jones, who lives in Barry, and who was the town crier in the Buckinghamshire town of Amersham.

He said in a letter that he is a member of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers and already possesses full livery based on a 1750s design.

He added that his wife Anna has her own full livery – also based on an 18th century costume and has acted as his escort at official functions.

The town council has agreed to invite him to meet them so that a decision can be taken.

At the moment, Mr Jones has no appointment as a town crier and is keen to continue with this work.

Wedding? If they had told me I would have dressed up!

The people of Litchard certainly got into the spirit of the occasion last Friday!
TURN TO PAGE 31 FOR MORE PICTURES.

PORTHCAWL MAYOR SEES THE VERY BEST OF NEWTON'S EASTER BONNETS

ABOVE: The winning entries in the children's competition.

IN the run-up to Easter, the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, judged a bonnet parade (for children and adults) at the Newton Institute, Porthcawl.

The Mayor was assisted in the judging by Mrs Marjorie Owen, a friend of Newton Institute, and by Jill George, the treasurer of the institute, with the raffle draw.

Photographs by
KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE: The Mayor with the winners of the adults competition.

ABOVE: Jill George asks the mayor to draw a raffle ticket.

Awards ceremony honours young people in care

THE achievements of over 60 children and young people in the care of Bridgend County Borough Council were marked at a special awards ceremony at the Brewery Field recently.

Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children and young people said: "We as a council take our responsibility as corporate parents very seriously and looked-after children is a priority for the authority.

"We have approximately 330 children in care, from new born babies to 18-year-olds. Without exception, circumstances have impeded them from being able to live with their parents, siblings, grandparents and others.

"Despite the difficulties they've faced, many have overcome their hardships and proved that you can achieve anything you put your mind to; they are truly inspirational."

The ceremony included a special award for an inspirational young person who despite losing his mum and undergoing open heart surgery, continues to do well at school and has made his teachers and foster carers extremely proud.

Other examples of success stories from the event included children who have overcome school phobia, bullying, attendance problems, and school difficulties; youngsters who have excelled in reaching their potential in school, sports and doing activities in the community, and young people that are managing significant health and emotional difficulties with awe-inspiring bravery and resilience.

Colin Turner, Interim Head of BCBC's safeguarding and family support services, said: "The event was extremely important to give recognition to those children and young people who have faced adversity but have managed to work hard and are achieving success not just with their education, but in their lives in general.

"All of them deserve to be applauded for their hard work, motivation, commitment and positive attitudes."

Awards also went to several professionals, including a teacher, a social worker and a foster carer who have all gone the extra mile to make a difference to young people's lives.

The event was compéred by Welsh baritone and radio presenter Mark Evans. Other special guests included several Osprey players, and BBC Wales Scrum 5 presenter Rick O'Shea.

There was entertainment provided by the young people themselves including a performance by singer Kirsty James and an inspiring talk from Nicky Sayce about his life experiences and how he managed to overcome obstacles to achieve success.

After the event, Nicky said: "It really was a privilege to be involved in this event and I was glad to be able to give something back as my experience in care was extremely positive."

Bridgend county's young musicians in Ynysawdre school performance

PRIMARY and lower secondary pupil members of Bridgend County Borough Youth Orchestra will be performing in Ynysawdre Comprehensive School on Friday, May 13 at 6pm.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's children's directorate, the evening will feature orchestras, string ensembles, wind and junior big bands playing a varied programme, ranging from music from *The Royal Fireworks* by Handel, *Toreador's Song* from Bizet to 'Somewhere' from *West Side Story* to 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Freddie Mercury.

BCBC's Bridgend Music Service continues to thrive, with more than 1,600 children learning instruments in schools each week and almost 300 attending weekly rehearsals.

Music co-ordinator Jeff Ryan said: "I've had the privilege of working with these young people and their staff for quite some time now, and I still find their enthusiasm and the standards of their work something really special."

Introduced by Tony Mullins, an active member of Maesteg Operatic Society for 49 years, it will be an opportunity to hear the musicians of the future.

For tickets (£5 / £3 concessions) call Jeff Ryan on (01656) 642658 / 07961 192408.

Bridgend Youth Music members.

'Wales needs quality control'

READER'S LETTER

IN Wales, we have been bombarded with election leaflets promising heaven on earth.

Yet I have failed to find any so-called manifesto, any history of the candidate, their background in education, commerce, or industry.

I have also failed to find any record of any worthwhile achievements in the public area. They sometimes give an impressive list of committees that they have been on (*a meeting is where you take minutes and waste hours*).

If we are not careful, we will end up with an incompetent political collection of inexperienced political researchers, accountants and lawyers.

Have the candidates ever constructed anything, or organised a successful business?

We must get real. We have laws, bureaucracy and wars we do not want. We are over-populated, illiterate and somewhat work-shy as a nation.

We must be led by high quality people who want to govern us.

D E Jenkins,

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
05 Thur	09.26	9.2	21.41	9.4
06 Fri	10.02	9.3	22.14	9.3
07 Sat	10.37	9.1	22.54	9.0
08 Sun	11.15	8.8	23.29	8.7
09 Mon			12.03	8.5
10 Tues	00.22	8.4	12.58	8.2
11 Wed	01.26	8.1	14.06	8.0
12 Thur	02.39	8.1	15.25	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Kenfig Hill locals mark *that* wedding with a right royal street party at Caer Wetrale!

Photographs by
GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

They can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

***EVERYONE** enjoyed themselves at their royal wedding street party at Caer Wetrale in Kenfig Hill.*

There was a fancy dress competition and a bouncy castle, to mention just a few of the activities for the children.

Young and old had a great time celebrating** that **London wedding while the young 'bride' (top, centre) had a choice of vehicles to transport her in style!

£5,688 swells Mayor's fund for charites

PORTHCAWL Civic Fund is the body responsible for encouraging, co-ordinating and organising raising funds for the Mayor of Porthcawl's charities.

The picture (above) shows the presentation to the Mayor of £5,688. Left to right: Mayor of Porthcawl Coun Mary Emment Lewis, John Berry (Porthcawl Civic Fund), Mrs Doreen Owen (Porthcawl Civic Fund) and Glan Davies (treasurer) .

The Mayor will make donations to the following charities on Friday, May 6, at the YMCA: LATCH, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Tenovus, RNLI, Porthcawl Stroke Club, and Porthcawl YMCA.

'It's bizarre to see giraffes and elephants up close – and the scorpions are massive!'

Bridgend soldier on a tough 'learning curve' in Kenyan war games

WHEN Lance Corporal Joseph Teale returns home to Bridgend from Kenya, he'll have more than a few wild tales to tell his family.

For the last month, the 21-year-old section commander has been on Exercise Askari Thunder in the east African country with 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh (Royal Welch Fusiliers).

Training lasts six weeks and is an extended test of soldier skills, stamina and fitness, where soldiers learn how to work with each other, take enemy ground and how to cope with an unexpected attack or ambush.

Joseph, from Brackla, where mum Sian and dad John still live, said: "*The experience has been excellent when you weigh it all up.*

"*We're learning things all the time and you come out much better prepared.*"

However, as the soldiers manoeuvre through the levels, they not only have get used to free-roaming wildlife in the form of elephants, cheetahs and lions, they have to beat the scorching heat.

"*Travelling to places like Kenya is part of your job as a soldier and you get to see so many different things," said Joseph, who serves with D Company and has previously toured Cyprus, Canada and also two tours of Afghanistan.*

"*Here, it's quite bizarre to see giraffes and elephants just wander up close – and the scorpions are massive.*"

The 1st Royal Welsh is heading up a 1,000-strong battlegroup that includes a company of soldiers from the Kenyan Army. The days are spent conducting intense exercises in temperatures sometimes reaching 50 degrees celsius in a place called Archers Post, more than 250 miles from the capital Nairobi.

Two weeks ago, one soldier suffered a snake bite and the training also had to be halted in parts because herds of ostriches decided to scamper across the range.

Joseph added: "*Everything's a learning curve on tours like this, but being in Kenya is unique.*

"*The temperature has been a real test and it's all part of the training.*"

RW

L Cpl Joseph Teale.

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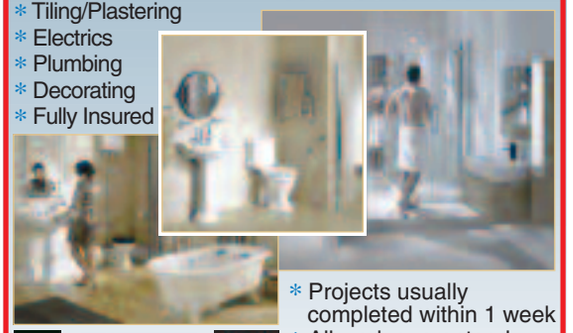
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Porthcawl street party is a special day for the children

Royal wedding day was an occasion for all ages last Friday in Porthcawl. Local photographer Malcolm Nugent found the residents of St Christopher's Road enjoying party food and games (above and right).

Meanwhile, at the Rest Convalescent Home in Rest Bay, residents gather to toast the bride and groom (below).

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

ABOVE: Amy and Sandra enjoying the St Christopher's Road street party.

Terrapins rescued from the Old Hall Gardens pond

by PHILIP IRWIN

POLICE in Cowbridge are looking for the person responsible for dumping two terrapins in the pond in Old Hall Gardens.

The animals were eventually rescued by a local ecologist, Jenny Jones, who is looking after them until she finds a suitable home.

Jenny was called in by PC Mark Goulding, who is the South Wales Police Wildlife Officer. Mark's duties normally take him further afield, but this job was a little closer to home.

He told The GEM: "We do take these matters seriously, because two criminal offences are involved here.

"First, there is an animal welfare issue and second, it is an offence to introduce a non-native species into a local eco-system."

The latter carries a maximum sentence of two years.

He continued: "We are seeking any information about how these terrapins came to be dumped in the Old Hall Gardens."

Damage to the local eco-system is clearly an issue here. Jenny Jones explained: "The pond had proved to be a good home for newts – which are still a protected species, and it looks as if the population has fallen sharply, because the terrapins will have fed on them."

Terrapins are a popular household pet and Mark explained that they are often bought when young and very small, and can be contained within a small tank.

However, the Cowbridge two are now between three and five years of age and are fully grown and quite active. They need an expensive, large, heated tank.

The two are by no means the first to be dumped and, although native to the southern states of America, they can adapt to the colder climate here.

There is, apparently, a colony in Roath Park Lake in Cardiff, and Mark has appeared on a BBC Wales programme *Rhys to the Rescue,* with the Cardiff University herpetologist Dr Rhys Jones.

On that programme, Mark and Dr Rhys were able to prove that terrapins can be quite elusive, and they had great trouble catching them!

It is quite remarkable that cold-blooded animals such as terrapins have been able to survive the last two severe cold winters that we have experienced, but dumping them in the wild is still, says Mark, an animal welfare issue.

He said: "They are vulnerable to attack from larger birds, and we have found dead terrapins that have been partially eaten after such an attack."

On the other side of the coin, terrapins have no teeth, but they have a razor sharp beak, and on Roath Park Lake have taken bites out of ducks' feet or fishes' fins.

PC Goulding added: "Anyone with information can contact me at Cowbridge Police Station, or by telephoning 101."

ABOVE: PC Mark Goulding and Jenny Jones with the two terrapins

Branch president installed

SOROPTIMIST International's Bridgend Club held their AGM at The Rest, Porthcawl on April 27, when outgoing presidents Joy Jay installed Kathryn Delpak of Llanblethian as President for the coming year.

More information on the Soroptimist global organisation for women can be found on *www.soroptimist-gbi.org.*

Peace concert

THIS year, Women to Women for Peace will be celebrating 30 years of peace building around the world, and in celebration will be holding a fundraising concert at 7.30pm on May 14 at the Tabernacle Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend.

Women to Women for Peace (www.womentowomenforpeace.org.uk) is a UK-based peace group which works to foster peace and understanding through creating links between women from all over the world from diverse backgrounds, political opinions, ideologies, cultures and faiths.

The concert will feature the South Wales Male Choir and local harpist Angharad Edwards.

Contact Jane Harries for tickets.

Arts events in the borough

A SERIES of arts events is being staged in venues around Bridgend county borough during May, under the banner 'Mouth to Mouth'.

The name chosen indicates that the artists all live between the mouths of the Cynffig and Ogmore rivers.

The series of events are being organised by Porthcawl-based Sustainable Wales, and are funded by the Arts Council of Wales.

The events feature artists who perform and collaborate at 'The Green Room' in Porthcawl under the name of 'Arts for the Earth'.

'Mouth to Mouth' takes its name from a suite of poems by Robert Minhinnick, published in the Spring, 2011 issue of 'Poetry Wales' which can be ordered from SUSSED at 91, John Street, Porthcawl.

Robert Minhinnick commented: "Mouth to Mouth is a testament to local people who recognise they are lucky to live in a unique part of the world, and wish to celebrate its history and vibrant present."

Margaret Minhinnick of 'Sustainable Wales' said: "We're especially pleased that Mouth to Mouth means our artists visit other parts of Bridgend county borough.

"The public is invited to all events and we would like to hear from anyone else interested in joining 'Arts for the Earth' at our regular meetings. It's an exciting development in local life."

The May events include:

- *The Mirror's Grain: an experimental engagement with the local environment', organised by Tracy Evans and Kris Evans, at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, 7pm, May 13. Free.*
- *A 'Writing workshop with wine', 8pm-10pm, May 20, run by Robert Minhinnick. Held at 'The Green Room', 41, John St., Porthcawl. For new or established writers, both prose and poetry. £5.*
- *The first music and film performance by 'Pepper's Ghost', comprising Rhian Edwards, Richard Thomas, Peter Morgan and Iolo Edger at 'Bauhaus', 9, Wyndham Street, Bridgend, 7.30 pm, May 28. Free.*

For more information, contact: Sustainable Wales on 01656 783405, or mm@sustainablewales.org.uk

V A Newman Glass Quiz League posers

HERE are four questions from recent quizzes:

1. In Freudian psychology, what name is given to the part of the mind that operates rationally?

2. The largest zoological gardens in Great Britain are situated in which English city in the north-west of England?

3. Bill Shankly, the legendary manager of Liverpool FC, played in two FA Cup finals for which club?

4. Which inert gas takes its name from the Greek for hidden?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1. Ego
2. Chester
3. Preston North End
4. Krypton

After collapsing cauliflower sheep and Christmas elves...

GET READY FOR THE BIG MASHUP!

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Wales Alternative Food Festival – Feastival ,and the collapsing cauliflower sheep that became a global phenomenon across the internet, Bridgend went on to beat New York for a world record gathering of Christmas elves last December.

On Saturday, the town will stage the Bridgend Mashup – another unusual event that mixes (or 'mashes') traditional athletics in the streets with contemporary urban street culture.

"One of the highlights is street pole vaulting in the town centre – the first time such an event has been held anywhere in Wales, said a spokesperson.

"Street pole vaulting is massive in the US and Europe but it seems to have been quite slow to take off here in the UK. We're actually holding a championship in the middle of the town centre with some top class pole vaulters showing us how it's done," the spokesperson explained.

"Alongside the vaulting there'll be skateboarding competitions, BMX demonstrations, freerunning workshops, a street pentathlon challenge for children, and even street dance organised by local development trust, Creation.

"A full programme of urban music will be headlined by Flow Dem, an incredibly popular and up-and-coming Welsh band, who already have a huge following throughout the UK."

Following street culture events, there will be athletics and from 4.30pm, the town centre will become a traffic-free, flat, fast loop running circuit for hundreds of athletes from all over the UK who will be competing in the Welsh championships.

The programme features separate men's and women's races, welcoming athletes of all abilities, with children's races and a fun run mile.

For further information, telephone 01656 654906.

Members hear gripping tales of the Antarctic

COITY WI NEWS

IT has been a busy month for the various groups within Coity WI; the walking group has met each Monday, taking in walks from Blackmill to Ogmore Vale, Newton to Porthcawl, and Bridgend to the Derwen via the riverbank.

Craft classes are very popular, at this month's sessions, including patchwork, led by Karen Jones and watercolours led by Elaine Shepherd.

The April meeting was chaired by vice-president Ann Mutton, who conducted the business for the evening. President Mary Poland received the guests – Mrs Sue Ritchie visiting from Forest Row, and the speaker for the evening, Mr Russell Thompson.

Members were brought up to date on preparations for the Glamorgan Show and other summer events.

Mr Thompson spoke on his Antarctic experiences – which kept his listeners on the edge of their seats.

Graphic images showed clearly that the time Mr Thompson spent in the Antarctic in the late 1950s contrasts strongly with what we imagine modern conditions to be. Members were shocked by the daily challenges that were encountered. It was a stimulating and very informative address, and was followed by an absorbing question and answer session. Mary Poland gave the vote of thanks.

The evening then produced a series of surprises as Jean Rees, treasurer, presented three members with bouquets.

Mary Poland received flowers in acknowledgement of her golden wedding, while secretary Ann Gore and press secretary Elaine Shepherd are both celebrating significant birthdays.

The next meeting will be on May 25 and is Resolutions night. Members are reminded that preparations for the Glamorgan Show will be a part of the evening's activities.

Town Council will not pay for zebra crossing

by JAYNE ISAAC

THE thorny question of whether or not Porthcawl Town Council should pay for a zebra crossing on Newton Nottage Road was again raised at last week's council meeting.

The town council had earlier asked for legal advice about whether or not it was permitted to spend money on such a project and clerk Alison Leyshon reported that the council's solicitor had stated there was no legal reason why the council could not do it.

Under section 137 of the Local Government Act of 1972, the council could spend money on purposes for which it has no specific statutory power, like highways.

It could spend up to £6.15p per elector and there are 13,617 electors in Porthcawl, which equates to a maximum spend of £83,745.

The estimate for installing the zebra crossing received from BCBC is £41,265, which includes a sum for future maintenance. But BCBC has warned that this is only an estimate and the full cost of the work, if it was more than that, would be charged to the town council.

The crossing would be placed in the vicinity of Marlpit Lane and would serve houses on that side of the road.

Coun Alana Davies has been an impassioned supporter of the scheme, but fellow borough member Norah Clarke has been opposed to the town council spending this money.

Coun Clarke produced figures for traffic and pedestrians using the stretch of road, at an earlier meeting. This showed a very low number of people crossing the road in this area.

When the updated report came before the town council at last Thursday's meeting, Coun Alana Davies proposed that the scheme be progressed and she was seconded by Coun John Bunker.

At one stage, there was an exchange of views between her and Coun Clarke, which had mayor Mary Emment Lewis calling for order.

When the vote was taken, all the Liberal Democrat group, which is led by Coun Clarke, voted against. They were joined by two Conservative members – Jill Sweet and Chris Smart. The rest of the Conservatives abstained. Newly-elected independent Graham Walter also voted against.

As a result, the proposal was lost and it was decided that Porthcawl would not be paying for a crossing.

The same meeting also voted to let the contract to build the new skateboard park.

The final hurdle was passed a few weeks ago when the town council signed a lease on the land which is owned by BCBC.

Conservative group leader David Deere, who has championed the need for the skateboard park, asked the council to make it a unanimous vote.

The Liberal Democrats in the past have abstained and on this occasion, both Coun Clarke and Coun Gerald Davies also abstained although the rest of the group voted in favour, as did the two Labour members – Alana Davies and John Bunker.

Coun Walter also voted in favour having reversed his position. He told the meeting that he had been opposed to the skateboard park, but after being lobbied by youngsters who had left messages in favour of the scheme on his Facebook page, he had changed his mind.

Coun Deere said that the work would now be carried out by contractors Maverick and work would start shortly.

He added that it had been a long struggle to get the skateboard park off the blocks but at last, it would be going ahead. It should be ready in time for the summer holidays.

BRIDGEND NEWS IN BRIEF

Pencoed plant sale

PARISHIONERS and friends of St David's Church, Pencoed, have been growing bedding and vegetable plants to help raise enough money to fix a leaking roof.

Their plant sale – including garden furniture – will be held in the church hall at Wimborne Road, Pencoed, on Saturday, May 14, from 9am.

Jamming sessions

JAM nights start at the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel is on May 5 from 7pm-10pm for solo musicians and bands to develop their skills – or just to listen.

UNISON

Bridgend County Branch

STOP THE ATTACKS ON OUR PUBLIC SERVICES

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRIVATISATION & OUTSOURCING AND MEET WITH US ON:

Leisure	Sunday	15th May 7.30pm	OCLP Club, Bridgend
Residential Homes	Tuesday	24th May 3.00pm	Coity Higher Community Centre
Libraries	Tuesday	24th May 5.30pm	Pyle Life Centre. Bridgend
Homecare	Thursday	26th May 12.00pm	Maesteg Town Hall

ALL WELCOME!

IT'S PARTY TIME IN NORTH CORNELLY AS LOCALS JOIN WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

THE Greenacres public house in North Cornelly was a hive of activity on royal wedding day, with plenty of fun things to do.

There were live bands playing, a barbecue, a mechanical bull that threw off most of those who tried to ride it, activities for the children – and some brave souls went into the stocks to face the wet sponges.

Of couse, locals could also settle for relaxing in the sunshine and enjoying the atmosphere!

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Bilingual hymns

IT is nice to hear that Smyrna Chapel, Pen-y-Fai, is still upholding the tradition of holding a Gymantha Ganu.

It will be held at the chapel on Friday, June 3, at 7.15pm .

The singing will be conducted by Elwyn G Williams of Llanishen, Cardiff, accompanied by Peter David on the organ.

There will be a variety of hymns in both Welsh and English.

Song and dance

BETHLEHEM Chapel Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr, will hold an evening of song and dance on Friday, June 17, at 7pm with Bridgend Male Choir, winners of the 2004 and 2006 Welsh National Eisteddfod competition.

The choir was established in August 1960, and its musical director (since 2002) is the highly-regarded John Jenkins.

Accomplished pianist and percussion player Laura Smith has been with the choir since 2007.

Guests for the evening are the acclaimed Maesteg Children's Choir which in 2010 performed in City Hall, Cardiff, for Welsh Assembly and Cardiff City Council dignitaries.

The children invited to perform at Treorchy Male Voice Choir's annual concert, and sang at the charity concert in St David's Hall, Cardiff to raise money for the NSPCC.

Musical director for the last 25 years, Enid-Siân Hughes, formed the choir with the help of her mother Beatrice Alsop-Jones.

Accompanist Ryan Wood, has been a mainstay for the choir since the age of 13.

For tickets, telephone Gareth-Siân-Aimee on 01656 862037-732385-734589.

Family fun

SOUTH and West Wales Wildlife Trust will be holding its annual family fun day at Parc Slip Nature Reserve, Tondu on June 1, between 11am and 4pm, with a variety of activities.

The trust is also holding a seaside exploration of wildlife on the seashore at Oxwich, led by Michael Isaac.

Meet at Oxwich beach car park on Sunday, May 8 at 2pm.

For information on either event, telephone 01656 724100.

Church boost

MEMBERS of St John's Church, Aberkenfig thank all who attended the recent table top sale at the church, which raised the incredible sum of £1,060.

It also gave the public the opportunity to see improvements to the church layout.

One of the facilities open to all is the new meeting room, which used to be the church choir vestry.

At the recent hunger lunch for the charity Christian Aid, members were pleased that 74 residents supported this event.

Charity coffee

THE parish of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig will be holding a coffee morning at Sarn Community Centre on Saturday, May 14, at 10.30am.

All money donated is to go to the charity Christian Aid. There will be a number of stalls selling home made cakes, bric brac etc. Everyone is welcome.

Special service

AT St David's Church, Betws, next Sunday, May 8, at 7pm, there will be a special service for all parishioners of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig, to celebrate the life of loved ones with a follow-on of All Souls' Day.

The church will be restarting its 'Messy Day' facilities for young children aged five to 11 years old on Tuesday, May 10 between 3.30pm-4.30pm.

Garden fete

THE members of All Saints church, Pen-y-Fai, will hold a garden fete in the grounds of Pen-y-Fai Primary School on Saturday, May 21 at 2pm.

A large number of stalls available will sell all forms of goodies which should tickle everyone's fancy! All are welcome.

£318 raised

THE recent hunger lunch held at St David's Church for the charity, Christian Aid, was wonderfully supported and raised £318.

Well done to everyone!

Consumer rights

GARW Valley Mothers Union, which meets on the second Friday of the month in St David's Church, Pontycymer, last month had a speaker, Gemma, from Bridgend CBC who explained to the members their rights when buying goods on the internet, returning goods and how to avoid scams.

At the next meeting on Friday, May 13, they will have a speaker from the fire brigade who will advise on fire safety in the home.

On Saturday, May 14, members will be visiting the National Botanical Gardens in Carmarthenshire.

ME support

READERS of this column who suspect they have symptoms of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME, may be interested to know that assistance is available from the charity ME support in Glamorgan.

Between May 8-16, it will be ME awareness week, culminating in a special event at the Ararat Community Centre, Plas Treoda, Whitchurch, between 2pm and 4.30pm.

From 3pm it is open to all with a talk by Kyle Davies on Doctor Mickel's therapy, with a question and answer discussion.

For further information telephone Chris on 02920 762347, or check website www.mesupportglamorgan.co.uk.

Cross-country

TONDU Primary School was represented at the Bridgend primary schools' cross country competition in Ogmore Comprehensive School grounds, by Rhiannon Haines, Oliver Hatt, Sam Hatt, Ethan Wodecki and Lewis Wodecki.

Congratulations also go to Selina Horton, who won the Sainsbury's Mothers' Day competition writing about her 'Nano'.

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COMMUNITIES GET TOGETHER AS...

Royal wedding brings out local party spirit

ACROSS the Vale and Bridgend, people were keen to celebrate the royal wedding of Prince William and Katherine Middleton, ***reports Tim Chapman.***

Some organised local street parties, landlords in towns and rural villages decorated their pubs with union flags and bunting and others held private celebrations.

Although there was an overcast start to the day, by mid-morning the sun was out, and people were able to go ahead confidently with outdoor events.

The White Lion in Ystradowen used the day of the royal wedding to help raise funds for the Breast Cancer Unit at Llandough Hospital.

The pub has been painted pink to maintain the 'breast awareness' theme, and an Elvis impersonator arrived in a pink convertible car with a 'royal' couple in the back, complete with military and wedding dress!

One street party in Barry only made it by the skin of its teeth.

The residents of Lee Road discovered they had not applied in time to the Vale Council for the necessary permission, and Assembly candidate Angela Jones-Evans and local councillor Richard Bertin contacted the council to ensure the street did not miss out on the celebrations.

In Cowbridge, the town council hosted a family event which drew lots of excited children.

At West Farm in Llantwit Major, local residents enjoyed a 'sumptuous' tea, complete with an impressive William and Katherine wedding cake, and enjoyed games afterwards.

The Bush Inn at St Hilary, like many local pubs, put on a tempting spread for villagers, had facepainting and fancy dress for the children, followed by musical entertainment and games.

In the run-up to the wedding, the Vale Council had received requests for just two street party road closures, while the neighbouring Bridgend County Borough Council received six.

However, the actual number of events taking place were harder to quantify, as many streets made use of shared 'village green' areas for their own celebration.

In Porthcawl at the Atlantic Hotel, it was ladies only for a wedding breakfast event that extended on through the afternoon and into the evening, while pubs throughout the borough hosted wedding day themed events.

Meanwhile, the 'official' street parties were all going with a swing, while the unofficial ones were also having a great time.

It was a day when even the most hardened anti-monarchist would have been forced to admire the general good will and community spirit!

This week's GEM is packed with photographs of street parties and wedding day events – and they are still coming in!

There may well be more next week!

Magic of Queen

THE Memorial Hall and Theatre welcomes Magic back to Barry on Thursday, May 12.

Magic will cover Queen hits, including 'Killer Queen', 'Radio Ga Ga' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody'!

For tickets, telephone 01446 738622, or go online at www.memorialhalltheatre.co.uk.

National Eisteddfod could bring a windfall of £6m

THE National Eisteddfod being held in the Vale next year is expected to attract up to 160,000 people and pump £6m into the local economy.

This information was given to members of Llantwit Major Town Council, who invited a delegation from the local organising committee to attend a meeting.

Peter Davies, Glyn Jones and Rosaline Lewis were present.

Mr Davies outlined some of the history of the Eisteddfod, which dates back to the 12th century. He described plans for next year's event which takes place in Llandow.

The meeting heard that the National Eisteddfod last visited the Vale in 1968 and the 2012 event will take place from August 4-11.

Coverage will be broadcast by the BBC and it is their second biggest outside broadcast event – only beaten by Wimbledon.

Mrs Rosaline Lewis gave an explanation about local fundraising and said that the target for Llantwit Major was £42,000.

Coun Gwyn John also explained how the Eisteddfod came to be invited to the area by the Vale Council.

Later in the meeting, the town council agreed to donate £300 towards the Eisteddfod.

Councillor takes over as Vale Show president

LEFT: Mr Edward Rees presenting Coun Jeffrey James (on the right) with his badge of office.

THE committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Show were delighted when Coun Jeffrey James of Rhoose agreed to become the 2011 show president.

Coun James has attended the Vale Show for most of his life. He believes it is a "shop window for the highest quality of Vale farming, but it also reflects the rich community that the rural Vale represents".

Mr and Mrs Terry Griffin of Fonmon, who have organised the horticultural show for many years, were nominated as vice-presidents of the society – no-one could be more deserving of the honour.

Terry has been chairman of the horticultural section for many years, with Maureen as secretary. Both have worked tirelessly, growing the horticultural show into the spectacular event it has become on the show field. They are at present putting together the schedules for this year's horticultural show. Contact Maureen on 01446 711282 for full details.

Other vice-presidents nominated were the Mayor of the Vale and the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Council.

The Vale Show will be held on Wednesday, August 10, at Fonmon Castle. Following such an excellent show last year, trade stand applications are flowing in, which bodes well for another excellent show.

Should anyone be interested in attending please email Nicola on vale.show@btinternet.com or look at our web site www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk

The livestock and horse competition schedules are almost ready. If anyone would like to sponsor a class and receive all the benefits that offers, the society would love to hear from you on 01446 710099.

Highlights at the show this year will include a display in the main ring by The Royal Signals White Helmets motor cycle display team and a display by South Wales Police dogs.

With more than 250 trade stands to browse around, a dog show, livestock and many other events to see, it's a great day out for all the family, so put August 10 in the diary!

NICOLA GIBSON
(Show secretary)

St Cadoc's teddy bears set for the high jump!

ST CADOC'S church (Old Village), Cadoxton, Barry is again holding its famous sponsored teddy bear parachute jump on Sunday, May 29, at 2pm.

Each daredevil bear will undergo a full medical in the state-of-the-art first aid tent prior to the jump to ensure they are fit to fly and on safe landing will be awarded a well deserved certificate of bravery.

Parachutes are provided and there will be a prize for the best dressed child's and adult's bear. So if you have a bear that would dare, sponsor forms are now available from St Cadoc's (Old Village) church, Cadoxton, Barry, or telephone 749689. The event will also include a barbecue and (new this year) a Gruffalo hunt!

Parishioners of St Cadoc's and St Mary's churches take part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal, and last year were able to send over 600 gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children in eastern Europe.

All proceeds from this event are in aid of the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal.

Summer term at Stagecoach begins this week

New students of all ages and abilities are welcome to start now!

Stagecoach delivers the best performance arts training, ensuring each child gets the most out of their experience, by building life skills and confidence while having fun and meeting new friends.

Exciting weekly classes teach children to act, sing and dance in an environment where they thrive. There is so much to look forward to every week and this term promises the same! Every student receives a progress report at terms end, and awards and certificates are presented for long standing achievement.

Other exciting events this term include LAMDA courses, and performances by their Performance Troupe at the Wales Millennium Theatre and Her Majesty's Theatre, London.

Places are limited and fill fast, so act now!

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

LEFT: Fr Jonathan Durley combined an Easter celebration with a royal wedding party in the grounds of St Theodore's Church in Kenfig Hill.

RIGHT and BELOW: The royal wedding was celebrated in style at the Talbot Community Centre. (See report, left).

COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**

by ***Richard Sims***

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

School Road party

NIGEL and Pauline Williams organised a party to celebrate the royal wedding, on the nearby village green, for the residents of School Road in Kenfig Hill.

It turned out to be a most enjoyable day, with many events being held, including a barbecue, races for the children, a raffle and naming the doll.

Just after dark, the party continued with everybody enjoying a wonderful firework display which carried on into the late evening.

The various fundraising events helped raise a praiseworthy £300, for the 'Eve Appeal Fund' for Ovarian Cancer.

The money raised was accepted by Neil Smith in memory of his fiancé, Nicola Davies, who had grown up in School Road, but sadly died last year at the young age of 30.

Kenfig Hill garden party

AFTER recently presiding over his first and very successful concert, the new priest-in-charge, Fr Jonathan Durley, celebrated Easter and the royal wedding with his parishioners at a garden party held in the grounds at St Theodore's Church.

It was an excellent afternoon enjoyed by all.

The new church shop 'Theo's' is in need of any unwanted bric-a-brac and handbags.

If you have any, it is urgently needed to help turnover, as sales made at the shop helps keep the Church solvent.

Community party

IT was a full day of celebration at the packed Talbot Community Centre, starting with a Bucks Fizz reception for the gentlemen in their suits and the ladies in their posh frocks.

After watching the royal wedding on the large screen, everyone was treated to a superb three-course roast beef wedding lunch.

Following lunch, a large crowd stayed on to relax with a game of bingo.

The most enjoyable day ended with 30-plus young children turning up for a royal disco with fun and games.

Our refurbishment is now complete, so here's a little treat to help us celebrate!

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THE MARKET PLACE

The Market Place launches their garden terrace

New terrace at The Market Place will open up a world of alfresco dining

BUSINESSES like to say they are part of the community, but in the case of the Market Place in Cowbridge that is quite literally true.

You see, the restaurant borders Cowbridge's historic town walls – and the Market Place has been involved in rebuilding the walls in its immediate vicinity so that they blend in with the recent refurbishment that has taken place around the Old Hall Gardens.

In fact, now that Peter and Tim Marriott have created their own garden terrace, you can reach out and touch those walls as you relax in the sheltered oasis that will offer the best in al fresco dining.

It is two years since Peter and Tim took over the Market Place, with Tim as the proprietary chef and his father Peter assisting in the business side of the venture, and the garden terrace was in their plans from day one.

However, it was first necessary to build a reputation and a solid client base, and Tim's cuisine skills have taken care of that. Having worked in a number of acclaimed restaurants in London, Tim's vision was to offer that sort of wide-ranging imaginative menu, but with a reputation for offering value for money.

That aim has been achieved, with customers travelling from Cardiff, Swansea and some are now coming from Bristol, as well visitors and tourists to the area, and the Market Place's many customers from the Vale.

The garden terrace will offer all of these diners the chance to enjoy fine food in an idyllic summer setting.

Massive glass doors have been installed and, when the weather allows, the garden restaurant will open out onto the terrace, which is bordered by topiary enclosures.

Tim believes that it will be a perfect place for people to drop in for late morning coffee or afternoon or early evening drinks – as well as for lunch and evening meals.

When I visited the garden terrace, I was struck by how peaceful it was. The high thick walls keep traffic noise out completely, and it feels like a stately courtyard in a country mansion.

Fresh pappardelle with courgette, asparagus, wild mushrooms and Pecorino cheese

SUNDAY LUNCH MENU

(Sample)

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Asparagus tartlet with goats cheese and sundried tomato £5.75
Seared scallops with truffle scented pea puree, black pudding and Parmesan £6.95

~

MAINS

Roast sirloin of beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, swede puree, horseradish cream £11.95
Boned and rolled welsh lamb with roast potatoes and vegetables with mint sauce £11.95
Succulent pork belly, roast potatoes, swede puree and vegetables, apple compote £11.95
Loin of cod with Welsh rarebit crust, garlic mash potato, sprouting broccoli and cream mustard sauce £13.95
Fresh tomato risotto, char grilled courgettes and asparagus £10.95
Fish of the day, crushed new potatoes, spring greens and salsa verde £14.95

~

DESSERTS

Hazelnut brownie with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce £4.75
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The Market Place for exquisite al fresco dining

THE MARKET PLACE

Introducing the Garden Wine Bar . . .

ANOTHER development nearing completion has been to convert the upstairs bar area into an intimate, relaxing wine bar designed in keeping with the period aspects of the building. The Garden Wine Bar will be offering bin ends wine from the restaurant wine list at very attractive prices.

For instance, a bottle that was £15 during its time on the menu will be available in the wine bar for around £9.95 or by the glass, and there will also be a choice of quality wines, a selection of terrace cocktails and new range of beers of the world.

The Garden Wine Bar will have another advantage of course, a fine view over old Cowbridge, and from a unique viewpoint.

Peter Marriott told The GEM that considerable time, care and investment had been expended in achieving a development that will enhance the existing wonderful historic building, while providing the new cutting edge terrace and garden wine bar facilities.

"We see it as an investment in Cowbridge as well as investing in our own business. I do not believe that business in Cowbridge should rely solely on the town to bring in customers. We need to offer something extra to bring in more!"

However, the best setting in the world will not prosper if the food disappoints, and Tim and his team will be carrying on the good work, with mouth watering items on the menu such as a terrine of smoke salmon, tiger prawns, smoked mackerel, cream cheese and caper dressing, or char-grilled calves liver and bacon with mustard mash and onion jus – and those are just on the Early Early Supper set menu! (£10.95, two course, 6.00 pm - 6.55 pm, Tuesday - Friday).

There is a fixed price lunch menu every day, two courses for £12.95 and three courses for £15.95) and you can also choose from the terrace dishes such as main course crispy duck and rocket salad with parmesan and truffle oil at £7.95 or indeed mozzarella, tomato and pesto gourmet burger with hand cut chips at £9.75.

Move on to the a la carte menu and there are plenty of dishes that excite, whether it be the roasted rump of lamb with feta and sundried tomato dauphinoise potato, tapenade and seasonal greens or Rosemary braised pork belly with mustard, herbs and liver sausage, mash potato and crackling.

So, The Market Place is now offering fine al fresco dining and new intimate garden wine bar in a tranquil and civilised setting. The fine weather arrived early this year, so Peter and Tim, in particular, have a good reason for hoping it continues.

Golden glazed bitter chocolate cheesecake with summer fruits and ice cream

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Bridgend Rotarians take young carers for a great day out at the Amelia Trust Farm

BRIDGEND Rotarians recently sponsored 11 young carers (aged 8 to 13) from Bridgend borough on a day out at The Amelia Farm Trust.

"These amazing young people each have extreme responsibility, often accompanied by trauma, yet on their day out were the kindest group of children you could wish for, with respect for each other and those around them.

"It was really great to see them behave as children for the day, and Bridgend Rotarians hope they had great fun, and look forward to taking them again, and hosting their Christmas parties."

The photos show them 'playing' and enjoying their activities.

TG

BARRY CAMERA CLUB CELEBRATES THE LAST SNAPS OF THE SEASON

BARRY Camera Club's last monthly competition of the season took place on Friday, April 29 and was adjudicated by Kevin Thomas, who has enjoyed his numerous visits to our club over the years and was once again made very welcome.

Kevin is very knowledgeable in the world of photography and has gained an FRPS and an MA in photography, so we felt in very safe hands. He commented on the wide range of subject matter and enjoyed perusing them, and deciding on the following winners:

In the monochrome print category, in third place was by *Low Tide Ravenglas* by Rob Owens. Second place was shared by *First Light* and *Watching*, both by Brian Trego, who has consistently shown his skill during this season's competition, achieving some very good scores.

The first place went to *Stradbally Strand* by Rob Owens – a scenic beach across which can be seen a captivating sky.

In the colour print category, third place was shared by four images – *Old Barn Door* by Kathy Edwards, *Norwegian Church* by Frank Cleland, *Tuscan Farmstead* by Barbra Archdale-Smith and *Cheeky Ladies* by Hugh Winnan.

Second place was also shared by four images, *Llyn Cynwch 2* by Rob Owens, *Abandoned* by Brian Trego, *River Deep Mountain High* by Allan Preece and *Kiosk Meeting Place* by Barbra Archdale-Smith.

The winner was *Captain And Ship* by Mac Britton – an innovative title for this image of an Arab and his camel.

In the projected images category, in joint third place were *Floating Away* by Ceri Ford and *Hanging On* by Frank Cleland. In second place was *Zap Cat* by Frank Cleland.

The winner was *All The Kings Horses* by Hugh Winnan – colour is the dominant ingredient in this image.

This time around we have seen some new faces in first, second and third places – well done. Virginia Kolmar entered a monochrome image of Tenby on a still, but dull day. It was entitled *Tranquil* and was Virginia's first foray into a club competition.

Rob Owens kindly gave Kevin Thomas a vote of thanks to round off the evening.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry. New members are always welcome to attend with no obligation to join.

Barbra Archdale-Smith

Jack (8) plays in special London concert

AN eight-year-old schoolboy from Barry will take part in a mass concert by 100 pianists later this month.

International pianist Lang Lang will lead them at the Royal Festival Hall in London, as part of the 'Lang Lang Inspires' series of concerts.

Jack Ollier, who attends All Saints Church in Wales Primary school in Barry, was selected from hundreds of other keen young pianists from all over the UK.

Music by Beethoven, Schubert and Wagner has been specially arranged for the youngsters, who will play on 50 grand pianos.

Jack, who also plays descant recorder, clarinet and drums, said he was "very excited" to be part of the project.

His mother, Jo Weaving, who is also his teacher, said: "It is an amazing opportunity for any young musician.

"I am very proud that Jack has been chosen and can't wait to see him on stage."

The excitement doesn't stop there though. Jack took part in the South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians at The Cathedral School, in Cardiff over the bank holiday weekend.

He won the gold medal and the Music Direct trophy in the junior piano year-3 class, and the silver medal in the junior woodwind class (years 3–6).

Jack impressed woodwind adjudicator James Stretton so much that he has been invited to perform 'Steam Train Blues' by Christopher Norton, on the descant recorder, at the Festival Gala Concert in United Reform Church, Windsor Place, in Cardiff on Saturday, May 7.

Arming the Few – a question for local historian

PENARTH AVIATION SOCIETY

IT was 71 years ago this July when the Battle of Britain began.

The RAF was ready to defend the country with squadrons of fighter aircraft and the men to fly them – but were our aeroplanes adequately armed with the firepower needed to take on the enemy?

Some modern historians argue that the RAF was not well prepared because the fighters lacked adequate arms.

Mac Tanner who will be speaking to Penarth Aviation Society on Friday, May 6, on the subject, 'Arming for the Battle of Britain – a Vindication', takes a contrary view based on his research which, he says, revealed some surprising and little-known facts.

Penarth Aviation Society meets on the first Friday of every month at 7.45pm in the Penarth Conservative Club. Visitors are welcome.

Further information from the hon secretary, Mr David Ephraim – telephone 01466 721321.

YVONNE THOMAS

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is *Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418*

IT is sad to report the death of Denzil Walters, aged 84, of Craig-yr-Eos Road, Ogmore-by-Sea, after an illness bravely borne.

The funeral will take place in St Bridget's Church on May 6, at 2pm, followed by interment at the churchyard.

FRIENDS of the Heritage Coast will be holding their annual general meeting on May 8 at 2.30pm at the Heritage Coast Centre, Southerndown. All are welcome.

HOW many swallows make a summer?

It has been brought to my notice that swallows were seen near the barn at Crwys Cwtta Farm, St Brides Major, on April 15.

On checking my nature notes, I found that swallows were seen in Dunraven gardens on the morning of April 13, 2009.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D668.

- **£2,000:** 897053.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 3 4 4 5 2 8 , 668302, 100192, 511175, 593748, 479108, 458391, 436584, 482553, 919028, 379764, 587501, 438820, 845629, 590622, 542475, 573835, 630142, 380059, 338434.
- **£5:** 189821, 791759, 773780, 572616, 776221, 915308, 348361, 187666, 887407, 462383, 782976, 448792, 343872, 638586, 443489, 751138, 261906, 293581, 778070, 337179, 495773, 580733, 839070, 550607, 923419, 833836, 878572, 222284, 236433, 257155, 635751, 896941, 631944, 387577, 964327, 198960, 673848, 750917, 436576, 651551, 800788, 890476, 441778, 265229, 713927, 542308, 494733, 524966, 509879, 862859, 345715, 489641, 654002, 176031, 603359, 888520, 225745, 121504, 743576, 516870.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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GLAMORGAN PONY CLUB'S ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO AWARD WINNERS

A host of winners were recognised at the awards ceremony.

Riders who passed the BHS Riding and Road Safety examinations

GLAMORGAN Pony Club held their fifth annual presentation and AGM at the Bonvilston Reading Rooms recently.

The club president, Mr Mike Gibbon MFH, welcomed everyone and introduced the new district commissioner, Annie Whitehouse, and assistant Sian Dix.

Annie started by going through what we had been doing throughout the year, including rallies, camps, competitions, training and exams.

She especially mentioned members who had passed their Pony Club riding and road safety exams; Jess Tidely and Megan Allman, and the following who also went on to pass the BHS road rider exam: Bethan Allman, Ellie Dix, Lauren Hooper, Louise Edwards, and Bethany Jarvis.

Tetrathlon team manager Phil Thomas gave a brief talk on the sport and thanked our current tetrathletes for their efforts; Becky Thomas, Genevieve Kirk, Victoria Shaw, Ela and Sanant Callow.

Mike introduced the speaker, Mr Jackie Thomas, joint master of the Glamorgan Hunt.

Jackie entertained us with an informative talk on hunting and encouraged more of our members to hunt with him next season.

Jackie then went on to present certificates to acknowledge the efforts of members. These were – For enthusiasm and improvement: Beth Crockford, Owen John, Brannwen Clay and Grace Gardner; .

For representing Glamorgan Pony Club at the area quiz – Bethany Jarvis, Adam Dix, Ellie Medlicott and Tom Brinn (team second), Jess Tidley, Ellie Dix, Evie Vaughan-Jones and Gemma Brinn (Team fourth), Rose Lubin, Alice Pembridge, Maisie Beech and Nonni Medlicott (team sixth).

Most improved rider, Nina Revera

Best attendance over 12, Ellie Dix

Best tack and turn out, Chloe Watkins

Best attendance under 12, Josie Dix

Area dressage – Nonni Medlicott (Novice), Alice Pembridge, Jess Tidley and Bethany Jarvis (Intermediate – team fourth) and Emma Lockwood (Open – fourth).

Area eventing – (Pre-Novice) Ellie Medlicott (first), Evie Vaughan-Jones (fifth), (Novice) Bethany Jarvis, Alice Pembridge and Ellie Dix, (Intermediate) Jess Tidley.

Area show jumping - Novice: Ellie Dix, Ellie Medlicott, Alice Pembridge and Bethany Jarvis (Team first and second in tack and turnout). Intermediate, Jess Tidley.

Also, our team of show jumpers (Bethany Jarvis, Alice Pembridge, Ellie Dix and Ellie Medlicott) who went on to represent the club at the national Pony Club championships in Cheshire; they were not placed but enjoyed the experience and came sixth in the tack and turnout.

Jackie then presented our cups:

12 and under attendance went to Josie Dix, Over 12 attendance, Ellie Dix.

12 and under tack and turnout, Emily Reynolds

Over 12 tack and turnout, Chloe Watkins.

Most improved rider, Nina Revera, Tippy Toes Cup for representing the Pony Club the most times was shared between Alice Pembridge and Bethany Jarvis.

The evening was closed with a word of thanks from Annie to all members, coaches, parents and grandparents for their support and help throughout the year.

Recent news is that Genevieve Kirk finished third in the area tetrathlon and had the best run – well done.

Also, we are very proud that Bethan Allman and Bethany Jarvis passed their B test.

We meet every Wednesday at Spring Meadows in Llandow for coaching from lead rein, right up to B test plus standard – please come along to see what we do if you are interested in joining.

In the school holidays, we hold all day rallies every Tuesday in various places from local venues to Leyland Court.

If you are interested, please contact Annie Whitehouse on 01656 862307. **JJ**

Bridgend and Vale councils to collaborate in enforcing car parking restrictions...

BRIDGEND and Vale of Glamorgan Councils are collaborating over plans to take on civil enforcement of parking.

Both councils are preparing applications to the Welsh Assembly Government to be designated civil enforcement areas. This would give them the power to enforce parking restrictions by employing their own council wardens. The police have not enforced parking restrictions since January 1.

Miles Punter, head of Visible Services for the Vale, said that the Vale cabinet had approved an application to WAG to be submitted later this year once a review of parking restrictions had been completed. If WAG approves the application, the council would be able to employ wardens from the start of the 2012 financial year in April.

He went on: " The council is currently working on this project with Bridgend County Borough Council, which is also submitting an application to WAG for civil enforcement powers.

"It is hoped that this partnership approach will provide reduce set-up and operational costs and improvements in the quality of the enforcement services that will ultimately be provided."

A spokesman for Bridgend said that civil enforcement powers for car parking is one of the areas being looked at as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between BCBC and the Vale Council.

This memorandum allows both councils to examine ways in which services to residents can be improved through close partnership working on joint projects.

The statement added: "A report on the possibility of undertaking civil enforcement powers for car parking is being prepared and will be discussed at a future meeting of cabinet."

Remembering the Great War Of 1914-1918 at Fortress Wales 20111

DURING the May Bank Holiday weekend, several members of the south Wales branch of the Western Front Association took part in the annual Fortress Wales event held at Margam Park.

Members of the public had lots of questions to ask at theWestern Front Association's display.

Over the course of two days, visitors were able to see re-enactment displays which covered a multitude of periods, from the Roman era right through to the Falklands Campaign.

Barry members Paul Kemp, Alun Robertson and Jonathan Hicks staged an indoor static display of artefacts, memorabilia and militaria associated with the Great War.

"We had an excellent response from the hundreds of people who visited our display," said Jonathan Hicks.

"People of all ages were genuinely interested in all of the items we had on show. As usual, our free family history research service was inundated with requests from relatives who wanted to know what their family members had done during the Great War.

"As a headmaster, it was also heartening to me to see the enthusiasm for the period from youngsters.

"Despite what one reads in the press, there is a genuine love of history amongst schoolchildren – it is an extremely popular GCSE option subject in many schools in south Wales – and this was reflected on the day.

"We were also pleased by the knowledge that the youngsters had of the period. Good teaching is getting the message across!

"On display were collections of medals, plaques and badges, many of them associated with the three Welsh regiments, plus uniforms, weapons and kit of not just the British Army, but this year the French Army as well.

"Our display on the attack on Mametz Wood aroused great interest and left people with a sombre feeling for the sacrifice made. We felt at the end of the two days that we had fulfilled our organisation's aim of 'Remembering' and look forward to participating again next year."

The next event for the branch will be Armed Forces Day in the grounds of Cardiff Castle in June.

Jonathan Hicks's new crime novel 'The Dead of Mametz', which is set in Barry in 1916, is to be published by the Welsh Books Council in May. Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.

He will be signing copies of his new novel at Barry Library at midday on Saturday May 21.

Top class cooking from India and Sri Lanka is highlight of Sandville Centre's charity event

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

AN Indian and Sri Lankan festive day was held at the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Tôn Kenfig.

It was organised by Monica Wilkinson and Simon Muenger, and was a great success, raising £2,065 for the Sandville Foundation.

The weather was fabulous, making it ideal for the Indian and Sri Lankan barbecues, which were held in the courtyard of Sandville.

There was also a clothing and fashion sale, run by local school students.

The Sandville shop and the hairdressing salon also did good business.

ABOVE: The cooks who provided visitors with a culinary treat!

'We don't do short back and sides, sir!'

Relaxing in the sunshine.

ABOVE: The scheduled entertainment had to cry off, so the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, provided the cabaret in her own Shirley Bassey tribute!

ABOVE: The Porthcawl Ukelele Band were on hand to entertain.

Sandville manager Gary Banks enjoying his Asian meal.

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGEND ADOPTION CENTRE

It's a kind of....Magic

HI there, my name is Magic and I hope I can work my magic on you! I came into the Centre through no fault of my own and am now looking for a new, loving home to call my own.

I am a bit of a shy boy to start with, but once you get to know me you will see that I am a proper softie!

I would love a quieter home where my new owners could help build up my confidence with lots of cuddles and maybe accompany me on a leisurely strolls around the garden.

I'd love to be the only pet in the home to feel the full benefit of all the attention my new owners can lavish on me! Please come and visit me at Bridgend Adoption Centre.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH?

*Mrs Samantha Harrett – **9 Clos y Coed, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend** – fell and replace two cherry trees and fell stem three ash trees.*

*Mr Michael Scales – **93 Pendre, Litchard, Bridgend** – erect wooden shed in garden.*

*Mr AR Griffiths – **Blue Seas Guest House, 72 Beach Road, Porthcawl** – two storey extension to rear, mansard roof with loft conversion, balcony to rear, kitchen extension to front.*

*GL Whitworth – **land at Derllwyn House, Derllwyn Road, Tondu, Bridgend** – four bedroom detached house and detached double garage.*

*Mrs V Elsbury – **67 Pen y Mynydd, Bettws, Bridgend** – first floor side extension.*

*Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC – **land between Maerdy Coal Tip and Tynewydd Forest, Rhigos** – erect eight wind turbines and associated infrastructure and anemometer mast.*

*Mr AJ Clare – **27 Heol Groes Faen, Porthcawl** – single storey extension.*

*Mr and Mrs Davies – **38 Rockfields, Porthcawl** – extension to existing dormer.*

*Working Links (Employment) Ltd – **129 Commercial Street, Maesteg** – change of use from A1 retail to A2 recruitment agency.*

*Mr Philip Nicholas – **2 Rockfields, Porthcawl** – demolish and relocate ext garage, erect two storey extension and extension over ext single storey kitchen.*

*Ms Thorney Carroll – **Bridge Stables, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed** – remove existing stables and temporary building and construct new barn.*

*Sasha Ufnowska – **Cwmcedfyw Farm, Lletty Brongu, Llangynwyd, Bridgend** – c/u to low impact yurt accom for rural course and short breaks and lodge reception/toilet block and classroom.*

*Mr and Mrs Lees – **221 West Road, Porthcawl** – ground and first floor extension.*

*Grove Golf Club – **land adj Grove Golf Club, South Cornelly** – proposed golf machinery storage building.*

*Mrs Susan Evans – **42 High Streety, Pontycymmer, Bridgend** – conservatory to rear of property.*

*Mr Karl Williams – **1 Bryn Gorsedd, Litchard, Bridgend*** – proposed rear porch..

Amateur group puts on a fine version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's first musical

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

THE Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (PAODS) recently staged a fine production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma at the Grand Pavilion over four nights (April 27–30).

With strong leads in Christopher Johnson as Curly, Charlotte Bruton as Laurey, and Joe Walters as Jud Fry, the cast did justice to what is still one of the 20th Century's most important musicals – not least because it was the first collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein.

In recent years, the society has benefited from an influx of younger members, and this was evident in the dance routines, particularly the extended ballet that closes act one. PI

BELOW: The cast go for a big finish!

ABOVE: The 'Poor Jud is Dead' number, featuring Chris Johnson and Joe Walters, was a highpoint of the evening.

ABOVE: Curly (Chris Johnson) with Laurey (Charlotte Bruton).

There's a great cause behind a town's new Book Festival

A HOST of celebrities and big-name authors will descend on Cowbridge for a week-long book festival in May, held in support of the blood cancer charity Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

Alastair Campbell, Geoff Thomas, John Hartson, Adam Hochschild, Stevie Davies and Dai Smith are among a 28-strong line-up of distinguished authors who will be visiting the town between Monday, May 16 and Sunday, May 22.

An exciting children's programme includes Mark Brake and Jon Chase, The Etherington Brothers and Nicola Davies.

The festival, which takes place at the Old Hall adult education centre and United Free Church in Cowbridge, will allow visitors the opportunity to meet their favourite authors, hear entertaining presentations and buy signed copies of their books.

Other highlights are a photographic exhibition which runs through the month of May, as well as a vintage and craft fair in the Old Hall Gardens on Saturday, May 21.

Event organiser and former librarian, Stella Cheeseman explained: "We went on holiday to Australia back in February with eight or nine speakers confirmed and by the time we got back, there were 28 authors interested – the response has been fantastic!

"I hope it will bring lots of people to Cowbridge and that we can make this an annual fundraiser for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research."

Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research is the only UK charity solely dedicated to research in to all blood cancers including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Last year, Cardiff University was named the charity's first centre of excellence, recognised for its world class research into the two most common forms of adult leukaemia – acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and acute lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL).

Stella said: "Ten years ago, we lost a good friend and neighbour to leukaemia, and around the same time another friend's daughter had leukaemia. After years of intensive treatment she recovered.

"Everyone seems to know someone who has been affected by a blood cancer and I'm just so impressed by the strides that are being made in research but clearly the battle must go on.

"As a leukaemia survivor our 'launch' author, Geoff Thomas, is living proof that the money people donate to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research is being put to good use."

The former England mid-fielder and Crystal Palace captain, Geoff Thomas, is visiting Cowbridge tomorrow (Friday, May 6) to formally launch the Cowbridge Book Festival with his book R*iding Through the Storm*.

For more programme information, visit the website www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk. To book tickets, please call Stella on 01446 774827.

AN INSPIRATIONAL MAN OF BARRY WHO WAS ONE OF THE LOST GENERATION

Local military historian and Headteacher of St Cyres Comprehensive School, Dr Jonathan Hicks, tells the story of another man's sacrifice during the First World War.

Dr Jonathan Hicks.

Second Lieutenant Timothy Davies Williams.

RIGHT: Varennes Cemetery.

ABOVE: Williams as history master.

ABOVE: His headstone in Varennes Cemetery.

ON Sunday, April 7, a telegram was delivered to Eleanor Louisa Williams at 3 Kingsland Road, Canton in Cardiff, where she was staying with a friend.

The telegram read: Deeply regret 2nd Lt T D Williams RGA 248 Siege Battery died of wounds fifth. The Army Council expresses sympathy.

Eleanor Williams had lost her husband of nearly nine years; Barry County School had lost one of its most inspirational teachers.

Timothy Davies Williams was born in Hawden le West, County Durham on July 25, 1883. His father Charles was from Mold in Flintshire and was working as a coal miner in Durham, though he later took Holy Orders. His father died when Timothy was only seven years old and the family moved to Caio in Carmarthenshire.

Educated at Llandilo County School, where he became a pupil teacher in 1901, he was then admitted to University College, Aberystwyth where he graduated with an honours degree in history in 1906 and then taught for two years in Bridgwater.

In August 1909, he married Louisa, as she preferred to be known, at Caio Church. That year he was also appointed history master at Barry County School and the couple moved to a house on Tynewydd Road in Barry named 'Vesta'.

He enlisted in April 1916, aged 32, having served with the 5th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers as a volunteer prior to the war. He was appointed to the 2nd Field Company of the Glamorgan Royal Engineers as a sapper and was stationed in Britain until August 1917. In March 1917, he applied for admission to an Officer Cadet Unit to train for a commission.

He obtained his commission and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant with the Royal Garrison Artillery on 4 August 1917. Williams served in France and Flanders from the following September, taking part in much severe fighting.

Williams was wounded during the Kaiserschlacht, the German Spring Offensive, at the Battle of Bapaume in 1918. He had been in an observation post, spotting for the battery's guns, when he was hit, probably by shellfire. He died of his wounds on April 5, 1918, aged 34, at Number 37 Field Ambulance, west of Albert.

His battery commander wrote to Louisa: "It was dear old Williams to whom I went many a time for advice in many of the difficult situations in which we found ourselves, and on one occasion it was entirely through acting on his advice, and without orders from my Commanding Officer, that I got the battery away before our retreat was cut off. Also, on the morning of 21st March, when we came in for the full share of the battle, I called for volunteers to man the guns.

"Your husband and another officer immediately went out and did most useful work under intense shellfire, and by their coolness and devotion to duty set a splendid example to their men.

"I can only repeat from the fullness of my heart, that the battery has lost one of the very best officers it has ever had, and that I have lost one of the very best friends and a brother officer. We all deemed it an honour to know your husband. He always made everything brighter for those with whom he worked and he could always be relied upon to do more than his share."

He had seen fierce fighting in Flanders during his first months abroad and had come through the German offensive unscathed up to April 5.

He had already won the praise and commendation of his superior officers for his calmness in the stress of the attack, and for the skill with which he had performed the work entrusted to him.

Another fellow officer paid tribute: "He had done magnificent work at the front and will be sorely missed by the officers of his battery, who often found his advice invaluable and who regarded him with peculiar affection and respect. His splendid courage and coolness in danger were an inspiration alike to officers and men."

The local press paid a glowing tribute to him as well: *"Mr Williams' death is a loss, not only to Barry, but to Wales. For nearly seven years he was history master in the County School at Barry and while there he did a work which cannot be too highly praised.*

"As a teacher of history he was unsurpassed in the County Schools of Wales, and his pupils owe him a debt of gratitude which they can never express or repay.

"Not only had he a conception of history such as is rarely found, but he also possessed the power of imparting that conception to others. Nor are the successes of his pupils the only way in which Mr Williams' work is to be judged.

"His keen intellect, his ready wit, his power of inspiration which it would be difficult to surpass, have left their impression upon hundreds of boys and girls who have obtained no academic distinction, but who will contribute a richer share to the life of the State because of their contact with a great and noble personality.

"Mr Williams' pupils, colleagues, and friends would be unwilling to let this moment pass without expressing their deepest sympathy with his widow, and at the same time attempting some appreciation, inadequate as it must be, of a work which will live after its author.

"Although he was but 34 years of age, he had lived his life fully and well, and he died as he had lived, fighting as he had always fought, against injustice and wrong, giving, as he had always given, freely and unsparingly, his best to the community in which he lived. His was indeed a life without fear and without reproach."

Timothy Davies Williams was buried in Varennes British Cemetery which is north-west of Albert. On his headstone Louisa had the following touching words inscribed: 'Remembering you I will be brave and strong'.

He is commemorated on the Barry County School Memorial which now hangs near the foyer of Barry Comprehensive School, and on the Roll of Honour in Barry Memorial Hall.

His name is on the Caio Memorial and a brass plaque was dedicated to him at Caio Church, Carmarthenshire. It was unveiled by Major Edgar Jones MA OBE, the Headmaster of Barry County School.

One of the lost generation killed during the Great War: an inspirational teacher, an intellectual and a leader of men.

• *Jonathan Hicks's new crime novel 'The Dead of Mametz', part of which is set in Barry in 1916, is being published by the Welsh Books Council this month Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.*

He will be signing copies of his new novel at Barry Library at midday on Saturday, May 21.

Community rallies to a funds-hit youth project

COMMUNITY volunteers at the Drop In Centre on Thompson Street estate, Barry, have worked hard to keep the work of the CYPIC project (Children and Young People in the Community) going following a disappointing result to a recent funding application.

The community has rallied round to keep open the popular Friday Night Club, football club and a range of other activities by taking on the work while alternative options for funding can be found.

During the Easter holidays, volunteers held a number of events at the local Castleland Community Centre that included: an Easter Bonnet competition, pool tournament, an arts and crafts competition as well as several sporting events that saw young people playing five-a-side football, cricket and touch and tag rugby.

Coach Matthew Dee had also introduced exercise and fitness sessions as part of the project's health and well being programme.

With loyal support from more than eighty young people, the hard work was more than worthwhile! The community has also received a promise of support from Newydd Housing Association, the estate landlords who have agreed to fund a tutor for body art and make up sessions for the girls as well as a second hand pool table to allow the club to enter the local league.

The Drop In Centre manager and the CYPIC project's lead volunteer are meeting with the Vale of Glamorgan's principal youth officer next week to explore ways in which appropriate funding can be identified to take the project forward.

Eileen Moore, the Drop In Centre manager, explained: "This is truly what community work is about.

Whilst we still need funding and the support of paid workers for the long term, I am so proud to be part of a community that is willing to put itself out to support us.

"A special thank you must go to our regular young people volunteers Gareth, Geraint, Joshua and Callum who helped the grown ups to set up and run our holiday events!"

"Thanks to everyone for their continued support and, hopefully we will be successful in our efforts to keep the CYPIC project going for the future."

Top class cooking from India and Sri Lanka is highlight of Sandville Centre's charity event

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

AN Indian and Sri Lankan festive day was held at the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Tôn Kenfig.

It was organised by Monica Wilkinson and Simon Muenger, and was a great success, raising £2,065 for the Sandville Foundation.

The weather was fabulous, making it ideal for the Indian and Sri Lankan barbecues, which were held in the courtyard of Sandville.

There was also a clothing and fashion sale, run by local school students.

The Sandville shop and the hairdressing salon also did good business.

ABOVE: The cooks who provided visitors with a culinary treat!

'We don't do short back and sides, sir!'

Relaxing in the sunshine.

ABOVE: The scheduled entertainment had to cry off, so the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, provided the cabaret in her own Shirley Bassey tribute!

ABOVE: The Porthcawl Ukelele Band were on hand to entertain.

Sandville manager Gary Banks enjoying his Asian meal.

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGEND ADOPTION CENTRE

It's a kind of....Magic

HI there, my name is Magic and I hope I can work my magic on you! I came into the Centre through no fault of my own and am now looking for a new, loving home to call my own.

I am a bit of a shy boy to start with, but once you get to know me you will see that I am a proper softie!

I would love a quieter home where my new owners could help build up my confidence with lots of cuddles and maybe accompany me on a leisurely strolls around the garden.

I'd love to be the only pet in the home to feel the full benefit of all the attention my new owners can lavish on me! Please come and visit me at Bridgend Adoption Centre.

Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ

T: 01656 726 621 E-Mail: bridgend@cats.org.uk

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH?

*Mrs Samantha Harrett – **9 Clos y Coed, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend** – fell and replace two cherry trees and fell stem three ash trees.*

*Mr Michael Scales – **93 Pendre, Litchard, Bridgend** – erect wooden shed in garden.*

*Mr AR Griffiths – **Blue Seas Guest House, 72 Beach Road, Porthcawl** – two storey extension to rear, mansard roof with loft conversion, balcony to rear, kitchen extension to front.*

*GL Whitworth – **land at Derllwyn House, Derllwyn Road, Tondu, Bridgend** – four bedroom detached house and detached double garage.*

*Mrs V Elsbury – **67 Pen y Mynydd, Bettws, Bridgend** – first floor side extension.*

*Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC – **land between Maerdy Coal Tip and Tynewydd Forest, Rhigos** – erect eight wind turbines and associated infrastructure and anemometer mast.*

*Mr AJ Clare – **27 Heol Groes Faen, Porthcawl** – single storey extension.*

*Mr and Mrs Davies – **38 Rockfields, Porthcawl** – extension to existing dormer.*

*Working Links (Employment) Ltd – **129 Commercial Street, Maesteg** – change of use from A1 retail to A2 recruitment agency.*

*Mr Philip Nicholas – **2 Rockfields, Porthcawl** – demolish and relocate ext garage, erect two storey extension and extension over ext single storey kitchen.*

*Ms Thorney Carroll – **Bridge Stables, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed** – remove existing stables and temporary building and construct new barn.*

*Sasha Ufnowska – **Cwmcedfyw Farm, Lletty Brongu, Llangynwyd, Bridgend** – c/u to low impact yurt accom for rural course and short breaks and lodge reception/toilet block and classroom.*

*Mr and Mrs Lees – **221 West Road, Porthcawl** – ground and first floor extension.*

*Grove Golf Club – **land adj Grove Golf Club, South Cornelly** – proposed golf machinery storage building.*

*Mrs Susan Evans – **42 High Street, Pontycymmer, Bridgend** – conservatory to rear of property.*

*Mr Karl Williams – **1 Bryn Gorsedd, Litchard, Bridgend** –* proposed rear porch..

Out and About with The GEM

Four friends to go on a sleep walk for Ty Hafan

Left to right: Jemma King, Liz Rawlins, Nina Huggett (bride-to-be), Bethan Crompton and Catherine Nicholas.

A GROUP of long-time friends will join the Ty Hafan Midnight Sleep Walk in Cardiff on Saturday, May 13, as a way to celebrate four birthdays and a forthcoming wedding!

"We have four birthdays to celebrate around the time of the event so we thought it would be a great excuse to get together while supporting a fantastic charity at the same time", explained Liz Rawlins who will turn 24 a few days before the event.

"Plus with one of us getting married later in the summer, it's a perfect chance for us to have a practice girls' night out!"

One of those taking part is Jemma King, who has a five-year-old disabled son called Cameron, and-knows first-hand how hard it can be to wake every few hours throughout the night, but still have to get on with things the next day.

"Although Cameron has never needed the high level of care Ty Hafan offers children and their families, I can completely sympathise with mums whose children have been diagnosed with a life-limiting condition who need 24/7 care", said Jemma.

"If giving up a just a few hours sleep means that we can help Ty Hafan offer mothers the care and support they need to get a well-earned extra few hours sleep, we can't think of a better way to spend our night, or a better reason to walk those 8 miles!"

Anyone wishing to take part in the Cardiff, Swansea or Severn Bridge Midnight Sleep Walks can register at www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk or contact 029 2067 2065.

MARVEL COMICS' LATEST OUTING IS THOR-SOME!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

SINCE the success of *Iron Man* in 2008, Marvel have been confident enough to bring as many of their comic-book heroes to the big screen as possible.

While contractual obligations mean that the *X-Men* and *Spiderman* are absent from their plans (though both will be returning to cinemas),with the likes of *Captain America,* a third *Iron Man* outing and the superhero team-up of *The Avengers* all due, it's the turn of one of their lesser-known heroes to take centre stage.

Thor tells the story of the titular character (played by Chris Hemsworth), an Asgaardian warrior cast out by his father Odin (Anthony Hopkins) to earth.

As he learns about his new surroundings, thanks to Jane Foster (Natalie Portman), he soon finds himself facing his brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) who plans to unleash all manner of evil in order to take the throne of Asgaard for his own nefarious plans...

While comic book movies have become all the rage in recent times, it is the choice of director for these films that has been most impressive.

Opting to go for substantial storytelling as much as spectacle, the likes of Chris Nolan, Bryan Singer and Sam Raimi have all moved from serious fare to comic spectacle and emerged unscathed at the other.

None other than Kenneth Branagh is the latest to join this gang, and he too will be able to hold his head high come the roll of the end credits – his take on *Thor* a thrilling spectacle of a film that will entertain and impress throughout.

While Branagh's hiring may have caused some consternation, it is pretty much forgotten once the film kicks in. He marshals the action set-pieces with a quiet confidence, never going too over the top and grounding the action within the film.

His affinity with Mr Shakespeare also comes to the fore, the narrative spilling over with familial angst and troublesome father-son relationships that allow Branagh's bard knowledge to come in very handy.

Similarly, there is a lightness of touch prevalent with the likes of *Iron Man* that means while things are prone to getting serious, there are plenty of lighter moments to keep the viewer engaged.

This ability to switch between the dramatic and comedic is typified by Chris Hemsworth's wonderful turn as the titular hero.

Perhaps best known as Captain Kirk's father in the reboot of the *Star Trek* franchise in 2009, Hemsworth grabs the opportunity with both hands here.

He shows a flair for muscle-bound heroics as well as strong comedic timing with some cracking one-liners, the screenplay and his performance wringing the most out of the 'fish out of water' situation.

The performances around him are all strong, with Tom Hiddleston mainlining manipulative mischief as Loki, Natalie Portman carrying off the love interest role with easy style, while Anthony Hopkins and Stellan Skarsgard offer gravitas in their roles.

Most entertaining is Kat Dennings as Portman's assistant, whose snarky wit deserves a greater chunk of the screen time.

While it has avoided the pitfall of *Iron Man 2* in terms of doubling as a trailer for forthcoming Marvel outings (save for a cameo appearance from a certain Avenger and a post-credit sequence that sets up that film), even with a run time of nearly two hours it feels a little condensed at times.

There is so much to fit in that some characters are short-changed, while the story cannot afford the space needed to really make the characters sing.

That being said, *Thor* is still a spritely effort that maintains Marvel's march on cinemas, to be continued later this summer with *Captain America* – and his Asgaardian counterpart has certainly laid down the marker.

VERDICT: A superb introduction to a previously unknown character, *Thor* is a wonderful slice of comic book entertainment, thanks in no small part to Kenneth Branagh's smart direction and a raft of pleasing turns.

While this may be the Asgaardian's first big screen outing, it certainly won't be his last. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Iron Man, The Lord of the Rings trilogy.*

Conservation and magic combine – *for a great stamp prize!*

ROYAL MAIL is offering a double treat for readers in the latest stamp competition – with the chance to win not one, but two, special stamp prizes.

The two sets of stamps are celebratory issues – one for the 50th anniversary of the World Wildlife Fund, featuring African elephants, a Siberian tiger and an Iberian lynx.

The second special commemorative issue is Magical Realms, featuring eight wizard and explorer stamps, including Merlin and Voldemort.

Magical Realms is a combination of film imagery and newly commissioned work featuring the myths and legends of King Arthur (Merlin and Morgan le Fay), the Narnia stories of CS Lewis (Aslan and The White Witch), JK Rowling's Harry Potter series (Dumbledore and Lord Voldemort) and two characters from Sir Terry Pratchett's Discworld (Rincewind and Nanny Ogg).

To win a combined set of Magical Realms and WWF stamps in special presentation packs, simply answer the following question:

Which of these is not a wizard in Harry Potter?

A .Paul Daniels
B. Voldermort
C. Dumbledore?

Answers on a postcard to Stamp Competition, Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, May 13.

Watch out for the next Royal Mail competition when we give readers the chance to win a commemorative presentation set of the Royal Wedding stamps featuring Prince William and his new bride Catherine Middleton.

Last coffee

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Len Taylor, invites the public to support his final coffee morning this coming Saturday, May 7, from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Mayor's Parlour.

All proceeds will go to top up his chosen charity, Cowbridge Comp 2010, and he is expecting a young harpist from the comprehensive school to be performing in the council chamber during the morning.

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service will be holding donor sessions in the area this month.

May 22 (10am-4pm) and May 23 (10am-6pm) - Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadshoard, Cowbridge .

May 24 (10am-6pm) - Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry.

May 31 (11.15am-1.45pm & 3.15-7pm) - Mobile Donation Clinic, Sainsbury Store, Y Dderwen, Bridgend.

(To attend this session it is advisable to make an appointment as these donors will take priority. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make one).

May 31 (10am-6pm) - Highlight Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry.

To view a comprehensive list of all blood donation sessions, visit www.welshblood.org.uk or call 0800 252266.

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8-Page Special

Friday 29th April 2011

William & Kate

Royal Wedding souvenir

The Glamorgan GEM

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Chris Ash Sarah Ash

"Never forget during the chaos of your day to say, I love you."

- MET ON MATCH IN 2006 AND STILL GOING STRONG -

Love, laughter and cheers marked a glorious Royal Wedding day that began with a journey from London's Goring Hotel for beautiful bride Kate Middleton and ended in a celebration and waves to the crowd from the balcony at Buckingham Palace

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"Tell each other you love each other every day. Rock on!"

• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

The happiness and joy of their Big Day is clear to see on the faces of Prince William and Kate as they return to Buckingham Palace in an open-top carriage as man and wife

Day of love and joy sealed with kisses

Not one, but two kisses sealed the most romantic day of the year. As William and Kate appeared on the Palace balcony, crowds surged forward to watch the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge share their love with millions of people across the world.

The weather may have been grey, but the mood was bright from the start as 1,900 guests, including Sir Elton John, David and Victoria Beckham and Prime Minister David Cameron, filtered into the maple tree filled splendour of Westminster Abbey, where scenes of excited chatter were already being broadcast to royal fans.

Prince William and brother Prince Harry arrived right on time in a shiny, burgundy chauffeur-driven Bentley, exuding an air of suppressed excitement before heading into St Edmund's chapel to await the royal bride. An hour later, like a modern day Grace Kelly, the future Queen of England, Kate Middleton, 29, stepped out of her Rolls-Royce Phantom with father Michael, in a Fifties-style ivory gown with lace applique floral detail, designed by Sarah Burton at Alexander McQueen. Kate's glossy brown hair was covered with a romantic veil held in place by a delicate tiara and her confident, classic style choice instantly confirmed her place as the nation's sweetheart.

As Kate reached the altar, where Archbishop Rowan Williams met the couple, Prince William couldn't contain his happiness and the world watched as he whispered the words Kate had been waiting to hear: "You look beautiful".

While the bride remained composed, only flashing that trademark smile occasionally, the 28-year-old Prince was unable to contain his joy as smile after smile spread across his face.

Yet, once seated in the open-top carriage the Duchess of Cambridge, the newest member of the royal family, began to beam with happiness. The sun came out for the royal couple and sitting in their magical State Landau they were greeted by screams of joy from thrilled fans, as they travelled another mile on a romantic journey that began at St Andrews University eight years ago.

Just over an hour later, Kate and William stepped on to the royal balcony at Buckingham Palace looking very relaxed, surrounded by their families. Like William's parents Prince Charles and Lady Di-ana 30 years ago, the couple were happy to respond to an ecstatic public, crying out for a public display of affection.

But once they'd sealed their love, and the traditional fly past of a Spitfire and other aircraft had taken place, Kate was concerned about one flower girl who clearly found it all rather too noisy. Looking at William, she gestured to the little girl with an intimate, loving smile.

Surely another addition to the royal household is just a matter of time.

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

Moment world had waited for

Royal bride Kate Middleton arrives at Westminster Abbey to marry her future king, looking stunning in a diamond tiara and fairytale wedding dress and veil that she had kept a secret from the world for so long

Inset: Prince William, in full military uniform, waves as he arrives with his brother Prince Harry at the Abbey. Right: Kate's sister Pippa with bridesmaids and pageboys

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• MARRIED FOR SIX YEARS SINCE MEETING ON MATCH IN 2002 •

The joy and love of Prince William and his bride Kate Middleton is shared by all in the splendour of Westminster Abbey. Royals, politicians, stars, family and friends watched the couple exchange vows in front of the Archbishop of Canterbury. They were joined by an estimated two billion TV viewers around the world.

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"Real love is a wonderful, rare gift. Remember to always look after it."

• MET ON MATCH IN 2010 AND WERE MARRIED IN FEBRUARY •

Prince Charles takes a look around as he sits with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duchess of Cornwall

Kate's mother Carole with her son James and other family guests

By Royal invite

Politicians joined royalty, stars, businessmen and the couple's closest friends for the historic ceremony inside Westminster Abbey watched by the world

David Cameron and wife Samantha chat with Nick Clegg and wife Miriam as Chancellor George Osborne and his wife Frances look on

David and Samantha arrive for the service

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2009, NOW CELEBRATING THEIR RECENT ENGAGEMENT •

Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice arrive in eye-catching outfits

Princess Anne smiles as she arrives to cheers from the crowd outside

Zara Phillips in a silver outfit and striking black hat greets guests

Earl Spencer chats with guests before the service begins

Sir Elton John arrives for the service and below David Beckham, wearing his OBE, with wife Victoria

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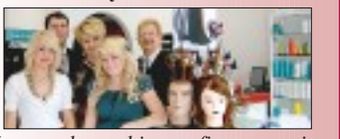

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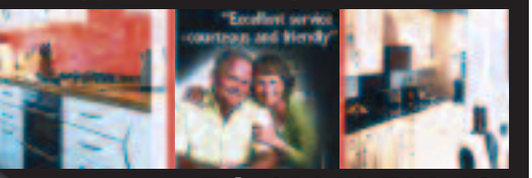

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Ty Hafan children share the excitement of royal wedding

Posing with the 'happy couple'!

CHILDREN, families and staff at Ty Hafan got together the day before the actual royal w.edding to stage their own event, complete with bride and groom look-alikes, bridesmaids, bunting and a special party and disco afterwards.

Beth Morgan, who is in charge of the care team at Ty Hafan, said: "Everyone had a fabulous time and the children absolutely loved it.

"The staff worked really hard to make everything as authentic as possible – even down to the cake.

"Just as with all the parties going on up and down the country, it brought people together for this special day and everyone here at Ty Hafan sends their very best wishes to the happy couple"

RIGHT: Chef Julia McCarthy puts the finishing touches to the magnificent cake.

ABOVE: As you can see from this picture, the celebrations for the royal wedding encompassed all ages, with it being the first one in memory for many youngsters!

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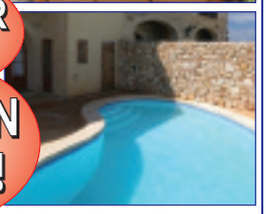

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Royal wedding day in Porthcawl is marked by street parties, family fun and posh frocks

THE residents of Bryneglwys Avenue in Porthcawl were among a select group of six in the county borough who formally applied for a road closure to hold their royal wedding day street party.

There were, of course, many impromptu get-togethers, and also lucky streets that had access to a 'village green', but in Bryneglwys Avenue, the event was planned to the last detail, with plenty of activities and games for the children, as well as copious refeshments for the adults!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event. They can be purchased by contacting: e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Ladies-only at Porthcawl hotel's wedding day event!

IT was an early start at the Atlantic Hotel for a 'ladies-only' wedding breakfast, so the party was well established when The GEM came to call!

ABOVE: Not quite the Buckingham Palace balcony – but these ladies were happy to give a regal wave!

LITCHARD LOCALS ARE OUT IN FORCE TO CELEBRATE THE ROYAL WEDDING!

THE residents of Penyrallt Avenue in Litchard were out in force to celebrate the wedding of William and Catherine last Friday (April 29).

For the children, there was a slap-up party tea – and a chance to for the girls to put on their best fairytale princess outfits!

For the adults, there was barbecue food, drinks and a break from the normal Friday routine!

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

Other pictures are available from this event.

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IT'S PARTY TIME...

These youngsters were clearly all set to get in the mood for a party at Penyrallt Avenue, Litchard, on Friday!

Grove Road's street party goes with a swing on wedding day!

THERE was plenty of entertainment on royal wedding day in Grove Road, near Brynteg Comprehensive School.

Everyone pitched in with food and drink, and there were party treats for the children.

Local bands played later in the day, while the daring ones could see how long they lasted in the stocks! ***(see bottom right).***

Tondu under-11s.

TONDU UNDER-11s IN TOURNAMENT GLORY

TONDU under-11s arrived at the Usk showground for the prestigious Abergavenny RFC festival of rugby.

First up were St Peters, and Tondu were fortunate to hold on for a 3-2 win.

In the second game, Abertillery were beaten convincingly by a clinical display by the backs, scoring four tries to nil.

In the third game Tondu faced local rivals Kenfig Hill, coming away with a hard fought draw.

In the final group game, the Tondu youngsters found themselves up against skillful English opposition in the shape of Beaconsfield.

Tondu had to be on top of their game to beat these strong opponents, and it was the forwards who provided the platform for a 2-1 victory.

The semi-final opponents were Builth Wells, and a place in the finals was booked with a 2-0 win.

The final was a committed affair played out before a sizeable crowd of Tondu parents and supporters (thank you Tondu under-8s for your vocal and passionate support!).

Tondu took an early lead against Pontyclun to send the assembled support wild, but Pontyclun kept coming to keep things tense before Tondu extended their lead and, ultimately, won the game.

Tondu were then crowned Abergavenny under-11 champions.

This trophy is just rewards for a team that has worked hard over the past year. There was a time when they were considered an easy win, but through sheer determination and guts the children have turned things around and given many an opponent food for thought.

With the help of their coaches and the support of the parents, this group of players have achieved what was previously considered beyond them. Rugby isn't always about winning – it can be about building self-esteem, confidence, teamwork, pride and togetherness.

Our children have come away with the trophy and they have also demonstrated these skills and attributes in abundance.

Although there will be tougher challenges ahead, it only remains that everyone concerned should be saluted for their faith and effort.

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BRYNCETHIN RFC MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY REPORT

West Wales weekend gives youngsters the chance to shine

BRYNCETHIN under-10s and under-11s travelled west to St Davids for a weekend of rugby and an opportunity for players and parents alike to let their hair down while camping.

The under-11s played a development game against their hosts with a squad supplemented by some of the under-10s, playing a match using under-12s framework in readiness for next season.

A strong wind was to be a key feature of the match. With Bryncethin having the wind at their backs in the first half they were able to dominate where the game was played.

Strong running from Dafydd Evans opened the scoring and this was quickly followed by a good team try, finished off by Emyr Hunnam.

Further tries by Emyr Watkins and another from Dafydd Evans, who also kicked three conversions, opened up a 26-0 lead.

St Davids were rewarded for their first half efforts with a converted try before the break.

The second half saw St Davids apply more pressure with the wind in their favour. Three tries and one conversion brought the score to 26 – 24 with the game entering the last five minutes.

Despite the best efforts of the home side, the Bryncethin team showed excellent discipline and execution to move upfield for one final time.

All the hard work put in was worth it, with Iwan Veasey crossing to clinch the match.

Final score: St Davids 24 – Bryncethin 31.

Try scorers: Dafydd Evans (two), Emyr Hunnam, Emyr Watkins and Iwan Veasey. Man of the match: Scott Ryall – excellent performance

Squad: Aaron Jones, Dafydd Evans, Emyr Hunnam, Emyr Watkins, Ryan Lovell, Ryan Morgan, Gethyn Napper, Morgan Tarr, Sam Shakeshaft, Tom Brown, Iwan Veasey, Jake Canton, Aaron Thomas, Scott Ryall, Jack Thomas, Morgan Stevens, Rhys Davies, Ethan Hopkins, Joshua Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Daniel Osarigie and Tobias Hunt

UNDER 10s

The Bryncethin under-10s made another sluggish start to the match, due no doubt partly to the late night beforehand and different rule interpretations by the referee.

St Davids were able to open the scoring but once the visitors settled into their stride they started to show their best form.

Plenty of ground was made by the forwards, with Luke Board, Aaron Thomas, Tobias Hunt and Rhys Davies prominent.

When the ball was made available to the backs, there was plenty of invention from Jack Thomas, Finlay Mullens and Josh Napper.

The first two tries came from direct running by Ethan Hopkins. These were quickly followed by an excellent team try, finished off by Daniel Osarigie.

A further two tries came from Morgan Stephens, highlighting the team's willingness to let the ball do the work.

The Bryncethin youngsters were now rampant and it was Joshua Thomas who got the next two scores, with one either side of half time.

To the great credit of the St Davids players, they played with much more direction in the second half and more than held their own for long periods.

The rest of the scores were shared out, with two for the home team and a further three for Bryncethin, with Daniel Osarigie and Scott Ryall (2) scoring.

Bryncethin's last try was the pick of the bunch with every player handling. Possession was kept as the ball was worked through the phases by the forwards and was quickly swept across the pitch by all the backs.

It was left to Morgan Stephens to show great tenacity and skill to evade three cover tacklers to cross the line.

Final score: St Davids 15 – Bryncethin 50.

Try scorers: Ethan Hopkins (two), Daniel Osarigie (two), Morgan Stephens (three), Joshua Thomas (two) and Scott Ryall.

Man of the match: Joshua Thomas – two excellent tries and an outstanding performance in defence with some important tackles

Squad: Luke Board (captain), Aaron Thomas, Scott Ryall, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Morgan Stevens, Rhys Davies, Ethan Hopkins, Joshua Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Daniel Osarigie and Tobias Hunt.

UNDER-8s

Bryncethin under-8s were playing in their biggest game of the season at the Liberty Stadium in a curtain raiser before the Ospreys last home game of the season.

The final of the tag tournament against Swansea Uplands was to be a tense affair.

The game got underway with Swansea winning the all-important toss of the coin, and they were soon putting the pressure on.

The Bryncethin defence held strong and were able to take all six tags to turn the ball over. This allowed Bryncethin to mount a series of attacks, but as before the defences were on top.

It wasn't long before Bryncethin had their chance again with a break out of defence. Some fine passes and good angles of running allowed Ifan Hunnam to show his pace to score in the corner.

In a ding dong battle, Swansea were able to draw level just before half-time.

With the second half underway, both sides were pushing for a winner. The Bryncethin youngsters showed good hands and were able to push Swansea back.

This time it was turn of Rhys Cawley to torment the Swansea defence by dancing around them to score.

As before, Bryncethin couldn't hold on, and credit to the Swansea players as they never gave up. This made for a great game and at full time the game was 2-2.

A period of sudden death was played with neither side able to make the decisive score.

Alas, there had to be a winner and with Shaun Batchelor holding his nerve and the ref tossing the coin, he guessed the right way and Bryncethin came home the winners.

A big thank you to all the parents and supporters who cheered our boys and girls home to victory.

Try scorers: Rhys Cawley and Ifan Hunnam

Squad: Shaun Batchelor (captain), Thomas Bassett, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, Ben Daniel, Mike Gillette, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Jac Jervis, Will Laverick, Hollie Morgan, Jacob Rimron, Cory Ryall, Jake Whitefield and Rhys Williams.

RH

Wales' Martyn visits Porthcawl juniors

Martyn Williams pictured at Porthcawl Rugby Clun

CARDIFF BLUES, Wales and British and Irish Lion Martyn Williams visited Porthcawl Rugby Club on Sunday, May 1.

Martyn, who is Wales' most capped forward, spent the morning coaching the under-12 group before taking time to pose for photographs and sign autographs for the young players.

The visit was rounded off with Martyn presenting the under-12 squad with trophies for player of the year, player's player of the year and clubman of the year.

MPF

SWEET REVENGE FOR ATHLETIC OVER BONYMAEN

BONYMAEN came to Bridgend Athletic looking for a win that would secure runners-up spot in Division One West.

The Athletic needed a win and a bonus point win in the Saturday game against Waunarlwydd *(see back page)* to claim their best ever finish, third in the division, behind the Ravens and Narbeth. The Athletic were also looking to finish the season unbeaten at home.

With so much riding on the result, expectations of a battle royal were rife among both sets of supporters. They were not disappointed, as the game was played at a high intensity throughout, with fearless tackling by both sides.

It is a tribute to both teams and the refereeing that despite the hits going in fast and furious, there was not a scuffle or off the ball incident throughout. Two sides with a mutual respect developed over the years gave their all for their clubs.

The Athletic were quick out of the blocks. In the first minute, lock Griff Davies broke through a number of tackles and made 30 metres before offloading to supporting hooker Simon Mustoe, who ran hard for the corner – but was hauled down two metres short.

The Athletic continued to press but were penalised for holding onto the ball in the tackle to give Bonymaen a relieving penalty. They continued to have the upper hand and were awarded a penalty on the halfway line. Steve Lewis saw his kick bounce on the cross bar and go over to bring up his 200th point of the season.

Bonymaen responded with a penalty from outside-half Paul Warlow to level the scores.

Lewis kicked a second penalty from wide out to put the Athletic 6-3 ahead, and they were unlucky not to cross for the opening try.

Half-backs Tom Davies and Lewis set the backs in motion. Centres Stuart Morris and James Olds released full-back Rhys Ward-Jones and he fed MaCausland, who beat three men. However, tenacious defence stopped him crossing the whitewash.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 26
BONYMAEN 16

ABOVE: James Olds being driven towards the line.

The Athletic finally made the breakthrough on the half hour. It came in surprising fashion as with a small pack, scrummaging had long been the Achilles heel of the Athletic. The coaches have been addressing this issue and from a series of five-metre scrums, the front row of Wayne Fookes, Mustoe and Matthew Norman put their opposite numbers under pressure.

Bonymaen collapsed the scrum once too often and the Ath were awarded a penalty try. Lewis converted for a 13-3 lead.

Disappointingly, they failed to deal with the restart and were penalised. Warlow kicked his second penalty to reduce the deficit to 13-6.

The anticipated backlash came from Bonymaen straight from the start of the second half. They changed from trying to match the Athletic in an expansive game to playing a high tempo game with ball carriers trying to break the gain line.

They were rewarded fortuitously when a penalty from Warlow struck an upright and rebounded straight into the arms of centre Richard Cunniffe, who raced over before the Athletic had time to organise their defence. Warlow kicked the conversion to level the scores.

Pictures by GRAHAM OF GLENNSPORTS

Dan Apsee with Rhys Ward-Jones in attendance.

The Athletic hit back and Lewis kicked his third penalty to put them ahead. Bonymaen continued to test the Athletic resolve with powerful charges at the home defence.

Powerful tackles were made by the back row of Matthew Hillman, Tom Penry-Ellis and Dan Apsee. One Apsee tackle even had the spectators wincing.

Warlow then kicked a third penalty to level the scores. Not to be outdone, Lewis kicked his fourth penalty to restore the Athletic advantage at 19-16.

The Athletic fitness then came into play, with the work done by fitness coach Robert Green paying dividends. Having soaked up a lot of pressure, they responded by applying their own in the final quarter.

The Athletic brought on lock Jamie Doherty to replace Jonathon Stoker, who had given his all, and at prop 18-year-old Rod Apsee completed the game.

With Bonymaen chasing the game they were forced to open up inside their own half. This fell into the hands of master poacher Steve Lewis, who for the third time in four games showed anticipation to intercept and race away under the posts.

He converted his seventh try of the season for a match haul of 21 points and 219 for the season.

Scrum-half Aled Thomas played well on the wing and brought the game to a conclusion by kicking the ball dead into touch. This brought revenge for the Athletic as Bonymaen were the only side to defeat them in the league since October 30.

REPORT by ADRIAN BURT

Southerndown Ladies' Golf success

A SECOND preliminary round for the Ladies Welsh Team Championships was played at St. Mellons Golf Club - Southerndown against Llanishen on Tuesday, April 26.

Southerndown Ladies won - the team was Amy Rees (won 5/4); Myriam Hassan (won 6/5); Alaitz Zubikarai (won 8/6); Helen Calvert (won 6/5); Amy Watkins (won 7/6). The team will now go on and play in Aberystwyth on June 17 - 19.

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Bridgend Athletic under-15s.

Athletic under-15s win Yorkshire tournament

BRIDGEND Athletic under-15s were invited to a tournament in Sandal, West Yorkshire to represent Wales over the Easter period.

The intention was to invite a team from each of the home nations, as well as France and Italy. Unfortunately, both the French and Italian teams pulled out and were replaced by two English teams.

The teams taking part were Sandal, Worcester, Bishops Stortford, Malone, Glasgow and Bridgend.

The format of the tournament was that each team would play each other over a two-day period with points being allocated for a win or draw.

The first team up on Saturday for the Ath was Worcester. The game was very physical and not until the second half did the Ath start to go through their patterns, the game ending in a five-point all draw.

The next game was against Bishops Stortford and the Ath came alive, scoring two excellent team tries, running out winners 10-0.

The final game of the first day for the Ath was against the hosts from Sandal. Despite going a try down in the first half, the second half showed the Ath starting to dominate all aspects of the game. This led to a deserved try which was converted, and the Ath held out for a superb team win.

This left them as the only unbeaten team after the first day of the tournament.

The second day saw the Ath playing their two final games, knowing that if they remained unbeaten, then they would win the tournament.

The first opponents were Glasgow, and they ran in three excellent tries, two of which were converted, to give them an impressive 19-0 victory.

The last game was against the Irish team from Malone. The Ath scored a try just before half-time which seemed to calm the nerves, and the second half saw them score two further tries, which were converted, to give a 19-0 win.

Tries were scored by Josh Evans, Zac Evans, Grant Richards, Lewis Dunlop, Lewis Brace, Tom Jenkins and Matthew Wilson, with all conversions coming from skipper Josh Carey.

All 21 players who took part all played their hearts out and equal praise should be given to each player.

The players and dads who travelled will all, I am sure, remember their tour.

IG

Pencoed under-10s just lose out in Abergavenny festival

MAY 1 was the day of the Abergavenny tournament, which saw teams from all over Wales and England competing.

Pencoed were in pool 3, with Beaconsfield, Monmouth, Barry, St Peters, and Tondu.

Pencoed under-10s.

Game 1: Pencoed vs Barry

A SWIFT, fast flowing game of rugby saw Owain Johns open the scoring in the corner, followed by a brace of tries from Mikey Bosley.

Cael Chamberlain scored the fourth try, and Rhys Bending scored Pencoed's fifth.

Game 2: Pencoed vs Monmouth

SAM Costellow opened the scoring and Mikey Bosley doubled the score.

Owain Johns burst through the covering defence for Pencoed's third. Jonathan Carr went over from two yards.

Plucky Monmouth got a deserved try before the whistle, but Pencoed were worthy winners. Pencoed 4 Monmouth 1.

Game 3: Pencoed vs Beaconsfield

JONATHAN Carr opened the scoring, Tyron Harding quickly following for Pencoed's second, but Beaconsfield then scored.

Sam Costellow scored Pencoed's third, but yet again, Beaconsfild came back strong with a try of their own, setting up a nailbiting finish.

Pencoed burst out from their line for Jonathan Carr to run in Pencoed's fourth at the final whistle. Pencoed 4 Beaconsfield 2.

Game 4: Pencoed vs St Peters

ANOTHER tough game saw Sam Costellow run in an early brace of tries, followed up by Rhys Spurgeon.

St Peters came back with two tries of their own to make things interesting, but Mikey Bosley notched Pencoed's fourth, and the game was all over for plucky St Peters. Pencoed 4 St Peters 2.

Game 5: Pencoed vs Tondu

PENCOED'S final group game saw them put in a display of all round rugby, with a comfortable victory with tries from Tyron, Jonathon, Mikey, Sam and Thomas.

Pencoed were now set up to play national champions Lymm in the semi-finals. Pencoed 5 Tondu 0.

Semi-final: Pencoed vs Lymm

LYMM started the game with a quick try, but Pencoed fought back and ran in an equalising try by Johnathon Carr.

Lymm ran in their second try but Mikey Bosley twisted over to level the scores. This set up a dramatic golden try decider.

Superb rucking saw Pencoed attack and the ball was quickly passed out to Thomas Bending to score and take Pencoed to the final. Pencoed 3 Lymm 2.

Final: Pencoed vs Pontypridd

PENCOED were depleted in the final and although it was a very close contest after scoring the first try, Pencoed just failed to get over the final hurdle in what turned out to be another fantastic day of rugby. Pencoed 1 Pontypridd 3

The squad now looks forward to entering the district championships, and retaining their title next week at Nantymoel.

Squad: Mikey Bosley, Rhys Bending, Thomas Bending, Rhys Spurgeon, Sam Costellow, Cael Chamberlain, Will Jervis, Tyron Harding, Owain Johns, Jonathon Carr, Jack Rowlands, Ben Sullivan, Ioan Richards, Oliver Lewis.

MB and CB

ECO-WARRIORS SWOT UP ON RECYCLING TO STAGE AN ALL SAINTS FASHION SHOW

Year-6 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School are serious eco-warriors.

They have been studying materials during science lessons and decided to link this to an innovative recycling programme. They sought advice from the Marine Conservation Society and worked with Atlantic College to carry out a litter survey.

They discussed a number of issues, including the banning of plastic bags.

A discussion about how to encourage re-use of materials led to the idea of a recycling fashion show. All the pupils took part, choosing their own roles as designers, models, hosts and organisers.

They planned and carried out the whole event independently and invited the rest of the school to attend. The designs were amazing, with every outfit produced from recycled materials and the models were definitely future cat-walk potential.

Their teacher, Sue Thomas, was "very proud" of the way the whole class worked as a team to stage this fantastic event.

NM

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

Rhodri PHILLIPS

Sylvia would like to thank family and friends for their tremendous support and help at this sad time. Thanks to all those who attended the service and for all the cards and messages of condolence. Thanks also to Canon Belcher and Andrew of Thomas Brothers Funeral Services for the great kindness shown.

GARRETT
(nee Cridland)
Avril Rose

Passed away peacefully on Sunday April 24.

Adored and loving mother of Karen and Michael, devoted Nana of Hywel, Geraint and William, mother-in-law and friend of Bleddyn and Claire, cherished sister of John, Jennifer, Winston, David, Norman, Chris and the late Harry. She will be deeply missed and treasured forever by family and friends. Funeral Thursday May 5, service 2pm at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Joy HANCOCK
BOVERTON

Will be dearly missed by Glenville, Vernon, Jackie, Hilary, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral service will take place at St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit major on the 12th May, 2011 at 2pm. Donations only, in aid of Cancer research.

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Charles MALLETT
5th May, 2010

Always in our thoughts and never forgotten.
Love always,
Pat, Caroline & Su
x x x

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Birthdays

Happy 11th Birthday
JOE BAKER
on 5th May, 2011

Have a Great Birthday.
Lots of Love, Hugs and Kisses,
Mum, Dad, Abigail and all the family.
x x x

Happy 18th Birthday on May 10th
Emma Griffiths

Love from Mum, Dad and Ryan. XXX

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES
MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
GWASANAETHAU CYFREITHIOL, AMDDIFFYN Y CYHOEDD A THAI
DEDDF PRIODAS 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Ms Jill James for West Farm, Southerndown, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, CF32 0PY to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

Hysbysir drwy hyn fod yr adran a enwir uchod wedi derbyn y cais canlynol o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Ms Jill James ar gyfer West Farm, Southerndown, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Bro Morgannwg CF32 0PY i fod yn safle cymeradwy ar gyfer cynnal Seremoniau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Gall aelodau'r cyhoedd weld manylion y cais ar cyntiuniau cysylltiedig rhwng 9.00a.m. a 4.00p.m., o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

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Llantwit Cavs in action over bank holiday

ON the May bank holiday Saturday, Llantwit Major Cavaliers First XI, skippered by new captain James Snelson, played away at Newport Fugitives, a club two leagues above them, in the first round of the Welsh cup.

Losing the toss, in very blustery conditions, they batted first and made 247 for 5, with a majestic first First XI Century for Sam Pickford (116), with other notable scores from Jake McNaughton (43 not out) and Mark Coldwell (31).

Newport Fugitives replied with 248 for 7, winning the game in the 44th over courtesy of an unbeaten eighth wicket partnership from Matthew Evans (87 not out) and Rhydian James (24 not out). Ben Jenkins (3 for 39) and Jono Cheal (2 for 41) were the most successful Cavs bowlers.

On the Sunday, the Cavs travelled to Barry Wanderers, with a predominantly Second XI, skippered by new captain Dave Russell.

The Wanderers won the toss and batted first ,making 221 for 9 with a belting innings from A Hughes (87), with Dan Bowles (36) and P Webb (25) making notable contributions.

There were good bowling performances from Adrian Ashton (3 for 27), Dave Cheal (2 for 27) and Alex Harris (2 for 38).

The Cavs replied with 166 for 6 with Mark Coldwell (51), Phil Vincent (35) and Mark Dowling (25) all making useful contributions against some fine bowling from all the Barry Wanderers bowlers, with Hissan (3 for 34) being the most successful.

Next, the Cavs entertained Machen in their first ever game in the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Sunday league.

New Sunday league skipper, Mark Coldwell, won the toss and inserted Machen, who managed to score 134 off 34 overs after being in trouble at 69 for 6 after 24 overs.

G Harris (29 no) was top scorer with useful contributions from M Hatton (26) and G Jones (23).

Best bowling came from Dave Cheal (3 for 27) and Jono Cheal (2 for 19).

After another fine tea, the Cavs set about the run chase and looked in a good position at 51 for 1 before eventually collapsing to 112 all out in the 27th over.

Best batting came from Jono Cheal (46) with ten fours and Mark Coldwell (22), with G Harris (3 for 19), L Bisnal (3 for 24) and G Jones (3 for 44) being the successful Machen bowlers.

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors Brewin Dolphin, Engineering Services (Bridgend) Ltd, Simon's Plaice and Coast Tapas Bar for their sponsorship of the club.

The Cavs start off their first ever campaigns in their respective first divisions of the Welsh club conference next week, with the first XI away at Pentwyn and the second XI home to Dinas Powys.

The Sunday XI have a bye in the G and M league.

DC

Pumas are on course for great double!

BARRY Pumas played their penultimate league game on Sunday, where only a win would do if they were to keep up the hunt to become Lazarou Sunday League Division Three champions.

The opponents were Fitz Lifts FC, and Pumas started well.

They got the first goal when a cross found Ben Weekley, who netted from close range.

Pumas seemed to relax too much and a few minutes later Fitz Lifts drew level.

In the second half, Pumas always looked the most likely team to get the winner, and this came after Scott Christopherato was brought down in the box to give Pumas a penalty.

Captain Spencer Lamb stepped up to score, for a final score of 2–1.

The previous Sunday, Pumas were involved in the Division Three cup final against Arriva Trains FC.

Pumas got the first goal when they were awarded a penalty which Lamb scored to keep up his 100 per cent record. Pumas were again 1–1 at half time, when Arriva equalised from close range after a goalmouth scramble.

Pumas got the winner in the second half when Callum Taylor guided the ball into the net from an Anthony Partridge cross.

So Pumas won the cup, and if they beat Legal and General this week, the league title will be theirs too.

MORGAN STEPHENS

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Otto and Jack win at golf championships

THE south Wales boys' golf association recently held its annual open stroke and match play championships at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club on April 26–28.

Sixty-six players qualified from a total entry running into three figures, with handicaps ranging from scratch to no higher than five.

Qualifiers were from all parts of Wales, and there were a number of entries from England (some of whom, the watching national selectors noted, had Welsh credentials!)

The 36 hole stroke play championship was won by Otto Mand from Dewstow Golf Club.

The top 16 from the stroke play then played for the match play championship, and this was won by Jack Bush of Morlais Castle, Merthyr Tydfil.

The overall standard of play was exemplary on a course in beautiful condition but which was set up to challenge the players' shot making; on the evidence of the three days of play, the future of Welsh golf looks assured!

The organisers wish to thank Wenvoe Castle Golf Club for its superb hosting of the event.

DC

BARRY ATHLETIC BOWLERS BEAT PENCOED IN CUP

BARRY Athletic Bowls Club cleared their first Carruthers Shield qualifying hurdle with an emphatic win at Pencoed on Saturday.

In a one-way contest, the Athletic ran out winners by an impressive 55 shots with a 111-56 scoreline.

The big win was achieved thanks to two runaway victories for skips Glyn Thomas and Chris Blake.

Glyn's rink, featuring John Donovan, Paul Webley and Kristian Harris, registered a 36-11 success that included a six, five and three fours.

Chris obliged with a 33-9 score in a rink that comprised Dave Snelling, Richard Cowling and Geoff Whittaker.

Club captain Robert Horgan had a 24-18 win, while Dean Rees' squad tied 18-18 after trailing 2-12 early in the game, to complete a fine comeback.

The Athletic's 'A' side found the going tough against a strong Penarth team in a friendly at Barry Island.

Penarth had comfortable wins on three rinks and it was left to skip Ivor Stevenson to prevent a whitewash. His rink, with Mike Vaughan back bowling after a season's lay-off, were 24 -19 winners.

On Saturday, the second team entertain Barry Plastics at Barry Island in another friendly. The first team resume Carruthers Shield action at Cadoxton on May 14.

Scores: Barry Athletic – J Donovan, P Webley, K Harris, G Thomas 36-11; D Snelling, R Cowling, G Whittaker, C Blake 33-9; S McKernan, D Jones, C Wright, R Horgan 24-18; J Beanland, DK Williams, B Parrish, D Rees 18-18.

South Wales Senior League Division One

CWMBACH WELFARE 4
CADOXTON BARRY FC 1

Results cost Cadoxton Barry dear

TERRITORIALLY Cadoxton Barry (CB) matched their hosts for much of the game, but two defensive lapses in concentration and an unfortunate own goal proved to be their undoing, and at the end of the day there can be no complaints.

The lofty pitch had steep slopes running away on two sides - often delaying the return of the ball when it went out of play.

The first half was end to end with both sides looking more likely to concede from errors than quality play. A delay in shooting when in control of the ball saw CB dispossessed for Cwm to attack down the left.

In came a fierce cross that saw Walsh stretching to intercept - an interception that unfortunately redirected the cross high and beyond the reach of 'keeper Norris to drop into the net.

Before that, however, Norris had pulled off a fabulous diving save to deny Cwmbach's Hollidge the conversion of a penalty.

Early in the second half, Murphy headed on a long ball to offer Mills a glorious opportunity, but the ball bounced so high on the hard pitch that he was unable to get his head to it.

Indeed, the pitch went on to give CB a bit of a let off when, with Norris out of position, an on-target shot bounced over the CB bar, when normally it would have entered the net!

It wasn't long before Mills returned the compliment when he set Murphy up for the header that brought the scores back level.

There followed a spell when CB began to look the likely winners as a string of chances came but went begging. Then Cwm launched an attack down the right that, at first, didn't seen to offer any threat, that is until a trio of CB defenders backed off as Cwm lightly danced past statues before sending in a shot from close range which Norris only managed to parry to Ross Williams, who made no mistake with the return.

The same player then scored the best goal of the game with a glancing header from a free kick taken from out to the right. In between, CB chances came and went and there were a couple of good shouts for penalties which weren't awarded.

At this point CB weren't playing badly. But then, for the second time in the match, CB defenders appeared to turn into pillars of salt before they looked back to see a ball in their net for the fourth time.

NW

'AM I BLUE' EARNS FFOS LAS WIN

***Am I Blue,* trained at Kenfig Hill by Mrs Delyth Thomas, landed the Design Office Mares Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las on Bank Holiday Easter Monday.**

Partnered by 5lb-claiming jockey Peter Carberry, five-year-old *Am I Blue* finished six lengths ahead of *Giovanna* and was returned a 7-2 chance.

It will be remembered that *Am I Blue*, a former inmate of Tim Vaughan's Aberthin yard, made the headlines in the national and local press last September when winning at Hereford after being backed from 25-1 to 5-1. As one race reporter put it: "There was outrage in some quarters and amusement in others."

The national press made much of the fact that prior to *Am I Blue's* astounding win, Mrs Thomas had trained just two winners, but she is no stranger to the winner's enclosure, having saddled more than 100 winners in the sport of Arabian horse racing.

For the record, *Am I Blue's* Hereford win will be one of the stories in my forthcoming book, *The History of Horse Racing in Wales - The Great Scandals & Gambles of the Welsh Turf,* to be published by St David's Press.

Meanwhile, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan also made it a bank holiday to remember. He was successful with *Quedillac* (Sam Thomas) at Ffos Las and also sent out *Free To Air* (J W Farrelly) to win at Plumpton and *Makhzoon* (Aidan Coleman) to score at Fakenham.

KENFIG HILL'S Rhys Flint, riding his father John's *King Of Dubai*, landed the handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter on Saturday.

The six-year-old bay gelding, owned by Mr Brian Jones, made all the running to win by five lengths from *Points Of View* and was well backed at odds of 9–2.

At the Berkeley Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Woodford, Mrs Jodie Pearn's seven-year-old bay gelding *Floridahall*, who is qualified with the Glamorgan Hunt, won the Intermediate race at odds of 6–1.

Floridahall was ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams and is trained by Pentyrch's Robert Porter.

Tom David, riding Steve Whistance's *Overlut,* won the mixed open race.

You can email your news/views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 029 2073 6438.

BRIAN LEE

'Relegation a certainty'

THIS result almost certainly sends Cadoxton Barry (CB) back to the Second Division. The consolation is that, with their resources, they have the capacity to win again next season - the gap between the divisions is that great.

Penydarren 4 - 2 Cadoxton Barry FC

CB have probably shipped at least a third of all goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half this season and again, although the game was scoreless at half time, by the ninth minute of the second half CB were two down.

By the halfway mark it was three, before two great team passing movements were finished off with powerful headers from Mills to give CB hope at 3 – 2. Penydarren looked worried at this stage, but a fourth for them just after Mills' second ensured that a CB comeback wasn't going to happen.

NW

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) – 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 24.6 (11.5) – 67.3 (4.2). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 299 – 110.

SPORTS ARE TOO STRONG FOR THE VETS

Sully Sports B	**6**
Park Vets	**3**

SULLY entertained Park Vets in their last Division Two game.

Within minutes Sully were one up, a shot from Graham was half-saved by the Park keeper, and Jaime Lamb converted from close range.

With the pace of young Kieron Jones, playing alongside Jaime up front, Sully were causing Park Vets problems and soon increased their lead.

The pace of Kieron saw him through one on one and he coolly slotted the ball into the bottom corner.

Sully's defence of Joe McCann, Kevin Ball, Nigel Underdown and Adam Watts were dealing comfortably with the long ball and keeper Ben Gillespie looked in full control between the sticks.

Towards the end of the half, tempers flared and a Park midfielder saw red.

With Sully in control, they increased their lead when a through ball was handled.

The referee let play go on, and a cross from James Greenslade found Liam Hobbs at the back post, who volleyed in from close range.

With the half drawing to a close, the ten men of Park pulled a goal back when a long free kick eluded everyone and went straight in.

Sully made it 4–1 early into the second half when Spencer Lamb was laid off by younger brother Wesley Lamb, who smashed into the top corner.

More chances fell for Sully to increase their lead further, chances they almost came to rue as a crazy five minutes saw Park back in the game.

First an overhead lob couldn't be kept out by Ben Gillespie, followed by a long range effort shortly after that made the score 4–3.

Jaime Lamb slotted the ball in the far corner and reduced panic through the Sully camp, and they made the game completely safe a few minutes later when a short corner saw Jaime Lamb bend a shot, completing his hat-trick, making the final score 6–3 to Sully.

JL

Stags suffer double setback with two 'convincing' defeats

THE Stags of Barry Athletic CC suffered a double setback at the hands of Vale CC and St Fagans with convincing defeats in both matches.

First, the Stags suffered a seven-wicket defeat to newly-promoted Vale CC last Saturday; a match in which the Stags suffered a massive reality check a week prior to the first league game of the new season.

The conditions favoured the batsmen and that assumption was backed up by skipper Nathan Baker, who won the toss and batted first.

Any thought of a positive start from the home side was dashed in the first over. Batsmen Damon Leake (0) and Craig Brock (4), were both back in the shed after being outpaced by the bowling attack. Nathan Baker (8) soon followed after being unluckily caught in the covers.

The Stags were fading fast and needed a partnership urgently, if they were to post a defendable score. Luckily, Ian Gadd (46) and Ashley Baker (48) were on hand to lead the home side out of trouble.

Knocks from Billy Usswald (35) and Simon Phillips (19) proved useful for the Stags but with wickets falling quickly, it wasn't long before the Stags were dismissed for just 190.

After the tea session, the Stags looked impressive in the field. The visitors were struggling to cope with the partnership of Peter Hellyar and Jake Griffett. However, that all-important wicket was still to come and the Stags were losing momentum.

Vale were beginning to find boundaries at regular intervals and the Stags were under increasing pressure as the match wore on. Wickets from Jake Griffett, Steve Jones and Billy Usswald proved to be no more than a stumbling block for the visitors as they raced to a seven-wicket win with 12 overs to spare

Next, the Stags (captained by Andy Ellis) stumbled to a disappointing 77-run defeat by St Fagans, who stunned the crowd by giving Glan Williams and Neil Holmes a starting place against their home club. The sun was beaming down on the ever-popular Barry Oval and the chants to bat first were answered as St Fagans won the toss and chose to bat.

The Stags anticipated a long day's fielding and that proved to be the case, as the home side struggled to contain the visitors. Boundaries were hit all over the place and the game started to get away from the Stags.

Fielding errors were evident all over the field and made the game easier for the visitors, as they raced to 295-5 by the close of the first innings.

In the second innings, the Stags didn't get off to a good start by losing Jonathan Phillips (10), Ashley Baker (8) and Callum Twomey (8) early on in the innings. No-one was able to form a partnership with the in-form Ian Gadd, and the odds of a surprise win were getting slimmer and slimmer.

Gadd kept fighting with some excellent stroke play and produced some fine cricket for the spectators, and the icing was on the cake when he passed the century mark.

The 'Tractor-Boy' referred back to his attacking style of batting for the closing overs and looked impressive until he was stumped for 130 runs in as many deliveries.

The Stags had nothing more to give in terms of excitement, and were bowled out for 218.

The Stags open their 2011 league campaign next weekend and will hope to get a positive start as they hope to challenge for promotion. All of the club's fixtures can be viewed on their official website, www.barryathleticcricketclub.webs.com.

May 7 – Barry 1st XI vs Newbridge CC; Malpas CC vs Barry 2nd XI.

May 8 – Barry 3rd XI vs Creigiau CC.

AB

Minsgill Mans achieves point-to-point history!

***MINSGILL MANS* achieved a piece of point to point history at Cold Harbour near Leominster on Sunday by winning the Welsh Borders Area Classic Race for The Crudwell Cup for the the third time.**

Having won the race in 2007 and 2008, the 13-year-old gelding was an even money favourite.

Quality opposition from *Burntoakboy*, a former Cheltenham Festival winner, and the the useful *Tastes Like More* suggested a competitive race and so it proved.

To attempt to make all over four miles is generally a risky tactic, but in the hands of James Tudor the old warrior responded magnificently by first seeing off the challenge of *Burntoakboy,* and then keeping *Tastes Like More* at bay over the last two fences to get home by a neck.

Minsgill Mans is owned by Cowbridge's Jeffrey and Andrea Bird, along with Andrea's brother Jonathan Tudor and his wife Judith.

Jonathan, who trains the family horse at Merthyr Mawr, commented: "He's a real hero to us and it's remarkable that he still loves his racing at 13. He's now won 13 point to point races including nine Opens out of 25 runs. It was special to complete the family circle having our cousin James on board."

JB

BARRIVALE CLUB NEWS

THE Barrivale AGM was held on Tuesday, April 19 when the retiring committee was, once again, re-elected.

The Bill Shore trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Jane Brook.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 24th birthday with a buffet, birthday cake and a teams event.

Results as follows: =1st Judith Owen, Helen Jordan, Irene Thomas and Jane Brook – 26 IMPS; =1st Betty Lewis, Denis Mottram, Mick Green and Mike Close – 26 IMPS.

After splitting the tie, the Alan Garland Trophy was awarded to Judith, Helen, Irene and Jane.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

Barry under-8s miss out in Abergavenny

ABOVE: Cole Saunders with Newport Gwent Dragon stars Toby Faletau and Jason Tovey.

BARRY RFC under-8s travelled the 100-mile round trip to play in the Abergavenny rugby festival on bank holiday Sunday.

After some fantastic rugby, they finished in second place, scoring 19 tries in four games.

Pontyclun 5 v 3 Barry RFC

IN the first game, Barry started slowly, struggling to get tags and badly passing.

It was a good attacking game from Barry with tries from I Esscot, E Galsworthy and Z Fifield. Defence let them down but in terms of the table it was early days.

Barry 9 v 3 Newbridge

AFTER a good talking to concerning defence, Barry put in a great team display.

They managed to turn the ball over a number of times and some great moves were well finished off.

Tries from C Saunders (3), Z Fifield (3), E Galsworthy (2) and J Reid proved too much for Newbridge. Fifield's second try was a gem, with a fast pick and his pace took him over. D Wall and J Couch showed plenty of unselfish play, opening the Newbridge side up.

Barry 5 v 3 Penceod

GOING into this match, Barry had a very short break of 10 minutes.

E Galsworthy (2) scored two great tries but halfway through the game Barry were trailing 3-2.

Some changes saw substitute C Saunders grab a hat trick in five minutes to give the Vale side victory number two.

D Wall, J Couch, J Roberts C Denbury, T Pugh and R Rendell, to name just a few, worked tirelessly in this game to set up the tries for Galsworthy and Saunders.

Barry 4 v 4 Croesyceiliog

GOING into the final match, a victory or draw would secure second place, but a defeat would see Croesyceiliog take second place.

Croesyceiliog started the match on fire, going two tries up early on. Elen, the only girl in the Barry team, produced a great display of running and pulled a try back straight away.

C Saunders then grabbed two quick tries to put the Barry team 3-2 up. In a very entertaining match, Croesyceiliog drew level before J Roberts converted a great try. Then very late on, Croesyceiliog drew level again. A draw was a fair result, as both teams went for it tooth and nail.

Barry under-8s showed great awareness and team work throughout the festival. The attacking rugby was second to none and the defence improved vastly as the games went on. All players put in a shift to be proud of.

Team: *R Rendell, T Pugh, C Denbury, I Esscot, C Saunders, J Couch, J Roberts, E Galsworthy, Z Fifield, D Wall, J Jones, Elen and J Reid.*

Missing from the team was D Parry Griffiths, who suffered a broken collar bone. All players and coaches wish him well and a speedy return, yet he was still able to be there and support the team. Well done!

LS

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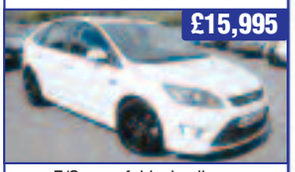

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10 59 FOCUS 1.6 Zetec
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£10,495

side skirts, bluetooth, silver

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Dyffryn Croquet Club celebrates its silver jubilee

DYFFRYN Croquet Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary this summer by launching a recruitment drive.

The club plays at Dyffryn Gardens in St Nicholas, and started in July 1986 when 49 members signed up following a demonstration game.

Since then the club has gone from strength to strength, and has won several league titles in the South West Federation.

Club chairman Sue Mackay, a founder member, told The GEM:

"Dyffryn Gardens is a wonderful setting in which to play croquet.

"The game is more complicated than people think. It requires tactical ability and skill rather than strength, but is very different from the game people may have played in their gardens.

"A handicap system means it can be played on equal terms by men and women of all ages."

The club has players from all over south Wales, but is now in need of new blood to ensure it survives well into its second quarter century.

To this end the club will be running two six week courses for beginners, one on a Wednesday evening at 6.30pm (starting on May 11) and one on Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm (starting on May12).

The cost will be £20, but this will be deducted from the cost of club membership for those that decide to join after the course. All equipment is provided, but flat soled shoes must be worn.

All those interested in joining one of these courses should contact either Paul Pristavec (01443 676239) or Sue Mackay (01446 710237).

Further details on the club can be seen at www.dyffryncroquet.org.uk

SM

Windsor firsts launch new season in style

Windsor LTC men's first team launched their season with an impressive win over Newport's Stow Park.

Chasing their third successive promotion the Windsor team, captained by Daniel Hughes, came away with a win by the narrowest of margins, snatching the match by 5-4.

A potent mix of experience and youthful exuberance was the key to victory for the Penarth outfit. The established duo of Jason Richards and Tim Hartland anchored the performance, taking all three rubbers, while Dan Hughes and Dan Ellis, and Tom Cole and Dan James won one rubber each to clinch the victory.

Windsor now go on to face local rivals Penarth Rectory Road in the competitive Premier Two Division.

Windsor men's captain Ian Hughes commented: "This is the best possible start to the season, and will give the team confidence for the tough local derby against Rectory a week Friday. Rectory have also won two successive promotions and the team is eagerly looking forward to the match."

NIGEL GABRIEL

Cowbridge brother and sister's ice hockey success

YOUNG Jake Roberts of Cowbridge Comprehensive School put on an impressive performance at the British national junior ice hockey championships in Hull last weekend.

Jake's team – South West conference under-13s – won the gold medal after a very tough match against Scotland. The match ended in a two-all draw after full time and overtime, and was won 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out.

Jake plays as a forward for Swindon Wildcats under-12s and under-14s ice hockey teams.

Congratulations also to Jake's sister, Bryony Roberts, also of Cowbridge Comprehensive, who helped south of England under-16s girls ice hockey team to a convincing 3-1 victory over North of England in Sheffield on Easter Monday.

Bryony was selected to attend the under-16s girls School of Excellence in Hull in May, at which the England under-16s girls ice hockey team will be selected. Bryony plays as a forward for Swindon under-14s.

Bryony and Jake will travel to Leuven, Belgium with the Swindon under-14s team on May 13 for an international tournament. They will face teams from Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and the Czech Republic, before emigrating to Ontario, Canada with their family on May 21.

ABOVE: Bryony Roberts.

Jake Roberts.

Cougars have too much bite

Keighley Cougars	**46**
South Wales Scorpions	**26**

AN early second half burst of tries sealed the win for Keighley Cougars to cement their second place position in the table.

The game was close to being a fairly even affair and the scoreline doesn't tell the full story of how hard the Welsh side worked in one of their longest toughest trips of the season.

Against the run of play, Keighley scored from their first attack, but Scorpions levelled when Aled James intercepted a pass and ran 60 metres to ground; Lewis Reece easily converted.

They took the lead from their next set when Andrew Gay broke through the defence to score under the sticks and Reece goaled again.

Scorpions let Cougars in for a second try, and Jason Demetriou broke through from kick-off to give Cougars the lead back.

Duffy followed him over from kick-off with Lawton converting both.

Scorpions crossed the line on the half-time hooter to leave Keighley 24–16 up at the interval.

However, the Cougars turned the screw in the second half and came away with the win.

IG

Cottrell Park ladies' Easter treasure hunt

COTTRELL Park ladies had a busy Easter week, starting with a treasure hunt in Cowbridge on Tuesday.

Ten teams of three set out to solve a list of clues and to find the objects asked for, returning with a swan, three feathers, a hummingbird and an object from out of space. Kay Bradbury, Mij Evans and Chris Impey were the worthy winners.

On Thursday, a 12-hole Easter Stableford was played in the sunshine, with some very good scores. The winner was Sandra Collin with 26 points, and second was Angela Padfield with 25 points. In third was Mary Davies with 24.

Following lunch Jenny McGlyne, the ladies' captain presented the winter league trophy to Helen Evans. The winter eclectic was won by Margaret Thomas.

She also gave the winners of the Easter competition nicely decorated baskets of Easter eggs, which were much appreciated.

The mixed Easter Monday Texas Scramble was enjoyed by all, and the winners were Jenny McGlyne, John McGlyne, Vicki Long and Robert McAndrew with a gross score of 69, net 62.6.

CB

Six-a-side leisure leagues

FC FALCONS picked up their first win of the campaign in the Cardiff six-a-side Sunday league – and what a win it was!

The ever-dangerous Luke Bowen was the star of the show as they trounced Jubulani 16–0.

It was a similar story elsewhere for Deportivo ATB, who got off the mark by beating The Nutty Boys 4–1 as Ashley Vickery starred.

Little Forces stated their intentions in the Bridgend six-a-side Wednesday league as Jeremy Griffiths proved the driving force behind a commanding 7–1 win over The Invincibles.

Beer Attack have moved to within a point of the summit as Glyn Davis starred in a 6–2 defeat of Valley Commandos, taking full advantage of El Wapos 1–1 stalemate with FC Ogmore.

Anyone who wants to join the leagues in South Wales can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

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06 06 TOYOTA Avensis 2.2 D4 Diesel 5-Dr 6-Spd. Sat nav, side airbags, radio/CD, 3 keys, 80k £5,495
05 05 ALFA ROMEO 1.9TJTD M-Jet. Met blue, 3-dr, a/con, elecs, 6-speed, fsh, cruise control, 76k £4,995
99 V VOLKSWAGEN 1000 Van TD, SWB. In white, 2 former keepers, radio/cd £3,995
06 06 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 5-dr. Met red, low insurance, a/con, fsh, 1 owner from new, 13k £3,895
03 53 FORD Ka Luxury 1.3 In Panther Black, leather seats, air con, 2 keys, genuine low mileage at 27k £2,695
01 51 PEUGEOT 206cc 2.0 Cabriolet. In black with black leather, FSH, E/W, radio/CD, alloy wheels, 2 keys, 69k £2,595
02 02 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr. In silver, pas, e/w, a/con, 89k £1,995
01 Y FORD Focus Zetec 5-dr. In metallic silver, fsh, a/con, radio cd, 83k £1,995
00 W VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.8 GTi 5-dr. In black, climate, sport Recarro seats £1,995
00 X FORD Focus LX 1.8 5-dr. In red, cd changer, fsh, a/con, e/w, 91k £1,895
01 51 PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX. Met silver, 60k, a/con, fsh, elec windows £1,795
99 T VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 Automatic 5-dr. In red, 6 disc CD changer, 81k £1,695
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91 J BMW 325i SE Automatic 3-dr. In met burgundy, sunroof £1,595
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4x4

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03 53 SUZUKI Jimny 1.2 02 Edition 3Dr Soft Top Convertible. In black with anthracite interior, CD, electric windows, alloy wheels, only 36,700 miles **£4,995**

01 51 LANDROVER Freelander 1.8 GS 3-dr hard top. In bonatti grey with smokestone interior, cd, electric windows, sunroof, alloy wheels, only 85,740 miles **£3,495**

HONDA

09 59 HONDA Civic 1.4i-Vtec TypeS 3-dr hatchback in milano red with half suede interior, cd, traction control, immoiliser, alarm, alloy wheels, only 16,970 miles **£12,495**

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SPORTS

09 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fogs, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles **£9,995**

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07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback. In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 38,598 miles **£11,995**

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05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-Dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fogs, only 52,000 miles **£10,495**

05 55 RENAULT Megane 1.6VVt 115 privilege 2-dr coupe cabriolet. In red with beige interior, dash mounted multi cd, alloy wheels, climate controls, body coloured bumpers, front fogs, only 49,110 miles **£5,495**

55 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles **£4,995**

05 05 MAZDA 3 Sport 2.0 5-dr Hatchback. In winning blue with ebony cloth, 17" alloy wheels, climate control, multi CD, front fogs, only 57,390 miles **£5,995**

03 53 VOLVO S60 2.0TS 4-dr Saloon in metallic gold with beige interior, cruise control, multi CD, traction control, only 42,480 miles **£4,995**

03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£3,995**

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08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4i 16v Club Automatic 5-Dr Hatchback. In metro blue with cable charcoal interior, air con, radio/CD, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 26,000 miles **£7,995**

08 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles **£7,995**

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08 58 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Desire 5-dr MPV. In oriental blue with black interior, ISOFIX anchorage point, air con, front electric windows, only 36,740 miles **£7,995**

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SMALL

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09 09 CITROEN C1 1.4 HDi VTR 5-dr Hatchback in metallic blue with grey interior, radio/CD, ABS, power steering, elec front windows, £20 a year road tax, only 14,500 miles **£7,495**

08 58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback. In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles **£3,995**

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08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4i 16v Club Automatic 5-dr Hatchback. In metro blue with cable charcoal interior, air con, radio/CD, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 26,000 miles **£7,995**

08 57 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-dr hatchback auto. In amethyst with grey interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, quick clear front screen, power steering, only 22,000 miles **£6,495**

08 08 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Blue 3-dr hatchback in ocean blue with Koyoto blue interior, quickclear front screen, cd, aux input, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 30,720 miles **£6,995**

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06 56 FIAT Panda 1.2 Dynamic Duologic 5-dr In Guacamole green with yellow Move interior, air con, CD, central locking, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 30,500 miles . **£4,495**

06 56 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 Atlantic 3-dr hatchback. In sky blue with dark grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, front fogs, body coloured bumpers, alarm, 27,820 miles **£4,450**

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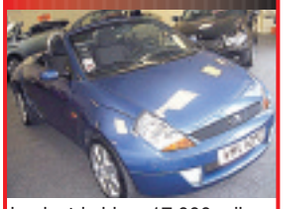

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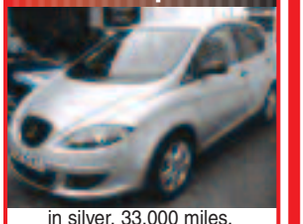

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NEWS FROM GLAMORGAN FARMERS GOLF

Successful return for president Geraint

THE president of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, Mr Geraint Davies, made a welcome return to the town of his birthplace when competing in the society's monthly competition last Thursday at Cradoc Golf Club, Brecon.

Scoring 35 stableford points, Geraint had a two-point winning margin over his nearest rivals to collect the society's own version of the Walker Cup from the day's generous sponsor Mr Tosh Taylor.

There to witness Geraint's fine achievement was his 88-year-old father, Mr Ioerwith Davies, who still resides in this beautiful part of Wales.

Aubrey Bowen with 33 points (16 points on back nine) finished second.

Coun Raymond Thomas, also with 33 points (14 on the back nine) finished third, and veteran Robert Thomas also with 33 points (13 on the back nine) finished fourth.

The society were particularly pleased to welcome five 'next generation' members to the day's event with Jamie and Harry Gibson, Rhydian Harris, Daniel Jarvis and David Taylor all enjoying the experience of playing on this beautiful parkland course with its superb views of the surrounding Brecon Beacons.

Also present for the evening's function was Owain Rees, grandson of Islwyn Rees who was successful at this venue in July 2000.

Sponsor's son David Taylor, with 43 points, won the guest section and also the 'James Hog Roast' sponsored longest drive competition.

Rhydian Harris, still smiling from his first-ever hole in one the previous weekend at Cottrell Park and playing his third round in two days, took second place with 37 points, and Brecon-based David Jones finished third with 36 points.

Congratulations also to Rhydian's brother Dewi, who recently holed out with his second shot on the difficult par four fifth hole on the Mackintosh course at Cottrell Park to secure his first-ever eagle.

David Jones, Aubrey Bowen,Geraint Davies, Tosh Taylor, Tony McCarthy and David Taylor.

The next generation of members – David Taylor, Harry Gibson, Daniel Jarvis, Jamie Gibson and Rhydian Harris.

Royal surprise!

Deputy secretary David Harris, still in recovery mode having missed out on an invitation to the wedding of the decade, sprang a surprise on the winners of the nearest the pin on the par three holes when producing specially purchased prizes to mark the following day's big event in Westminster Abbey.

Tosh Taylor, Bryan Owen, Jim Hayes and Neil Mclean all returned home with commemorative gifts to remind themselves and their families of William and Catherine's special day.

Ray Simkiss, undoubtedly one of the most consistent and generous contributors to the society's lost ball sweep, collected the 'Premier Turf' sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 34 balls would remain in the next county, which also raised £92 for the Samaritans' Purse Charity.

The society's next meeting will be the annual medal round competition for the Shrieval Trophy, kindly sponsored by Mr Islwyn Rees. This will be at Fairwood Park Golf Club on Thursday, May 26.

TMcC

Stand-in Tudor is a four-time winner

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

JAMES TUDOR, assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams, was in good form at the South Pembrokeshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Easter Monday.

Standing in for the injured John Mathias, Tudor rode a four-timer winning on David Evans's *Udeman* (Young Horse Maiden), Dai Rees's *Two Shook Men* (Open Maiden), David Llewellyn's *Rosies Peacock* (Men's Open) and Dai Rees's *Saint Peray* (Intermediate).

Udeman, a seven-year-old chestnut gelding, was backed from 5-1 to 5-4 favourite, and won by a distance from *Cloran Jack* ridden by Mathew Barber. Tudor's next winner, the oddly named *Two Shook Men*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, won by 10 lengths from *John Clayton*, also ridden by Mathew Barber.

Tudor's third winner of the day, *Rosies Peacock*, an eight-year-old bay gelding owned trained and bred by David Llewellyn, brother of Grand National winning jockey Carl Llewellyn, came home 12 lengths ahead of *Pathian Prince*, ridden by Paul Tolman.

Saint Peray, a five-year-old bay gelding, won by 30 lengths from the pacemaking *Rash Oak* partnered by Paul Tolman.

However, Tudor had began the day with a fall from the odds-on favourite *Lydstep Hills*, who had led at the penultimate fence in the members' race.

Sir Monty, a nine-year-old chestnut gelding, ridden by young Bradley Gibbs, was only just behind at the time and jumping a lot better than the favourite, and eventually went on to win by a distance from *Stafford Prince*, whose rider Paul Goldsworthy was having his first ride in a point-to-point since 1976!

David Brace, of the Dunraven Stud, Llanmihangel Farm, Pyle, saw his *Doctor Tom*, land the Restricted under Tom David. The eight-year-old bay gelding by *Dr Massini* won by 20 lengths from the favourite *Banagher,* ridden by James Tudor.

Lucy Pearce-Rowsell rode her first winner in a couple of years when landing the Ladies' Open race on the Charlotte Owen-trained *Baren De Roc*, a former inmate of Tim Vaughan's Aberthin's yard.

Baren De Rock, an eight-year-old bay gelding, won by five lengths from *Kisha King*, with the odds-on favourite *Fruitfull Citizen* a long way back in third place.

Starting prices – *Sir Monty* 2-1; *Udeman* 5-4 fav; *Baren De Roc* 5-1; *Two Shook Men* 5-2; *Rosies Peacock* evens fav; *Saint Peray* 1-2 fav; *Doctor Tom* 3-1; *Penway Tap Dancer* 1-3 fav; *Springs* 1-3 fav.

● On Sunday (May 8) the Tredegar Farmers are holding their annual Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Lower Machen, four miles west of Newport. First race 2pm.

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175/65R14	Bridgestone B250	£54.44	£101	£189
155/70R13	Avon ZT5	£37.44	£71	£138
165/70R13	Avon ZT5	£39.71	£77	£148
175/70R14	Avon ZT5	£50.71	£97	£184
175/65R14	Avon ZT5	£42.44	£81	£153
155/70R13	Nova	£31.84	£56	£101
165/70R13	Nova	£32.84	£60	£117
175/70R14	Nova	£36.68	£66	£123
175/65R14	Nova	£38.45	£70	£133

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195/60R15	Bridgestone B250	£67.44	£128	£245
185/60R14	Avon ZV5	£50.44	£97	£184
185/60R14	Avon ZV5	£54.44	£104	£199
185/60R15	Avon ZV5	£58.71	£111	£214
195/60R15	Avon ZV5	£53.44	£102	£194
185/60R14	Nova	£38.71	£70	£133
185/60R14	Tread	£37.33	£69	£131
185/60R15	Nova	£43.22	£81	£152
195/60R15	Nova	£44.58	£82	£153

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195/45R15	Bridgestone ER300	£68.44	£128	£245
205/55R16	Bridgestone ER300	£78.44	£148	£283
195/50R15	Avon ZV5	£50.44	£97	£184
195/60R15	Avon ZV5	£65.71	£123	£235
195/45R15	Avon ZV5	£55.44	£103	£199
205/55R16	Avon ZV5	£66.44	£128	£245
195/50R15	Fullway	£41.33	£77	£143
195/60R15	Roadstone	£48.84	£90	£173
195/45R15	Fullway	£45.22	£84	£161
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205/55R16	Bridgestone ER300	£84.44	£158	£301
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225/40R18 XL	Bridgestone RE050	£143.44	£276	£531
205/50R16	Avon ZV5	£80.44	£152	£291
205/55R16	Avon ZV5	£69.71	£132	£250
225/45R17 XL	Avon ZV5	£92.71	£179	£342
225/40R18 XL	Avon ZV5	£108.44	£203	£393
205/50R16	Nova	£53.84	£101	£194
205/55R16	Nova	£56.44	£107	£203
225/45R17	Nova	£61.71	£112	£214
225/40R18	Fullway	£55.24	£104	£203

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Final push secures third place for Bridgend Athletic

WAUNARLWYDD 19
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 37

BRIDGEND Athletic went to Waunarlwydd in sixth place in Division One West of the SWALEC Leagues, knowing a bonus point victory could elevate them to third.

Waunarlwydd have always been a tough nut to crack for the Athletic, and the home win back in September by the narrow 23-22 margin and the fact the Athletic had only picked up five bonus points all season did not augur well for the visitors.

The Athletic came out with all guns blazing. Waunarlwydd must have wondered what hit them as wing Lloyd Pemberton got the first try after four minutes, with fellow wing Lyndsey MaCausland following him over the whitewash three minutes later. Outside half Steven Lewis converted both tries.

Pemberton's try came following a good rolling maul on halfway with props Wayne Fookes and Rod Apsee prominent, and quick transfer through the backs via centre James Olds to the Athletics' leading try scorer, who beat two men to cross wide out.

A long pass from Athletic outside half Steve Lewis released full back Rhys Ward Jones into space before sending MaCausland racing in from 35 metres.

Good driving play from flanker Griff Davies and hooker Stuart Nation forced the home side to concede a penalty, which Steven Lewis slotted at the second time of asking, as Waunarlwydd illegally charged the first attempt. More indiscipline from the home side saw Lewis punish them again with his second penalty to extend the lead to 20-0.

Waunarlwydd then came into the game with a concerted effort, twice turning over Athletic possession. A well-disciplined defence and try saving tackles from Stuart Morris and Lloyd Pemberton kept the Athletic line intact.

The Athletic countered with driving play from forwards and backs, resulting in lock Jamie Doherty slipping an inside pass to the excellent Stuart Morris to cross for the third Athletic try. Lewis converted to put the visitors 27-0 ahead at half time and in sight of the bonus point try.

The slight breeze enjoyed by the Athletic in the first half changed to strong gusts for the second.

Waunarlwydd took full advantage with pin point kicking from outside half Jonny Davies pinning the Athletic inside their own 22 for long periods.

Scrum half Tom Davies and captain flanker Matthew Hillman marshalled the Athletic defence, with some strong tackling from Jonathon Stoker and Tom Penry-Ellis keeping the home side out.

The Athletic brought on fresh legs with hooker Simon Mustoe and flanker Chris Whitcombe coming on. However, following a passage of loose play Waunarlwydd were rewarded for their pressure when strong running centre Andrew Rees-Spowart crossed for their opening try.

This was closely followed by another from lock Robert Bagley. Davies reduced the deficit to 27-14 by converting both tries.

The Athletic then used their remaining replacements with Aled Thomas, Tom Goodwin and Matthew Norman coming on. Just when it looked as though time might be running out for the Athletic, clever play from full back Rhys Ward Jones released wing MaCausland to race over for the all-important bonus point try (his sixth of the season).

Waunarlwydd responded with a second try for lock Bagley. The Athletic had the final say when wing Pemberton also crossed for his second to give the Athletic a 37-19 victory. The away fans gave their side a rousing ovation at the end of the club's most successful season ever.

This third position finish is the best ever position for the Athletic in Division One West. Last season they finished fifth with 59 points – but they needed 68 points this season to achieve their third place. Behind top side Bridgend Ravens, the Athletic matched second placed Narbeth with 14 wins and also suffered the least defeats behind the Ravens – only losing five games and drawing three; Narbeth lost eight games but secured more bonus points wins.

This effort is remarkable with the resources available to the Athletic, and shows what can be achieved in Welsh rugby when players remain loyal to their club as amateurs. They are a 95 per cent home produced club with players coming through their excellent mini, junior and youth ranks.

The club are lucky to have a stable management and coaching staff that are respected by the players and are able to develop the players' strengths and skills to compete with teams with better finances and facilities.

Team manager Paul Hearne, director of rugby Paul Yardley, forwards coach David Williams, backs coach John Apsee and conditioning coach Rob Green, and all the Athletic squad, can all be proud of their efforts this season.

The character of the team is epitomised by the Ryan Giggs of the Athletic - man of the match Stuart Morris. Stuart, in his 19th season at the club, is a former club captain – holding the position for seven consecutive seasons. He is also the club's seasonal and all-time leading points scorer and rarely misses a training session.

Like Giggs, he has adapted his play and is now the playmaker at inside centre for the club he has served with distinction. He has played when the club were in the old Wistech leagues and come through from Division Five to their current respected position near the top of Division One West.

ADRIAN BURT

Cavaliers in big midweek win

THE Cavaliers Midweek XI (163 for 4) beat Pencoed (95 all out).

Snelson and Jake McNaughton took the game to Pencoed and put on an excellent undefeated partnership of 128 runs. The two stand out bowling performances were from M Henson (2 for 11) and K Redford (1 for 9).

Pencoed's reply got off to a steady start as they progressed to 21 off 4 overs before they lost their first wicket when A Gregory (11) was bowled. The second wicket quickly followed bringing Chris Cole to the crease, who put on a partnership of 46 runs before being crucially run out for 22. Top scorer in the innings was opener Keith Redford (37) who was the 6th wicket to fall with the score on 88.

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Sisters doing it for themselves - AT THE EXPENSE OF PENCOED!

LEFT: Pencoed's Glen Hiscocks races 80 metres to score.

PENCOED 17
SEVEN SISTERS 48

THE visitors effectively won this match in the opening twenty five minutes, scoring 22 points without reply.

Pencoed skipper Aaron Halse then got a try to stem the tide, before the Sisters increased their lead to 36-5.

To Pencoed's credit, they did compete for most of the second half, scoring an 80 metre try from Glen Hiscocks, and another from James Murphy, with Tom Cross adding a conversion to bring some respectability to a final scoreline of 17-48.

On Saturday, Pencoed visit Brynamman for their final game of the season.

YOUTH TEAM GAIN FINE WIN

The youth team gained a fine 31-12 win at Pontycymmer in their final league match with tries coming from Shane Napper, Liam Callaghan, skipper Lloyd Bargery, Lance Jenkins, and Tom Burk; Adam Williams added three conversions.

They now await clarification of the final league positions, with Bridgend Sports and themselves finishing with the same total of match points.

TR

Pencoed's James Murphy races clear for Pencoed's third try. (PHOTOGRAPHS by JULIE HANCOCK).

Pencoed Skipper Aaron Halse opens Pencoed's account.

Porthcawl under-11s take Brecon journey to glory!

AT the Brecon tournament, Porthcawl under-11s met Merthyr in their first game.

The Seaweeds had not played the 'Iron men' before so, with a mixture of excitement and nerves, they took the field. Will Mahoney, not able to make the Bournemouth tour, was eager to make his mark, and so he did after only a few minutes when he touched down for Porthcawl's first try.

Louis Protheroe weighed in with a brace and Harry Nichols and Callum Morgan completed the victory. Brandon's conversions made the final score Porthcawl 33, Merthyr 0.

The second match saw Porthcawl up against Llandovery. This game also ended 33–0, with the tries coming from Brandon Cooper, Louis Protheroe (three), and Ben Roach.

Builth Wells were next up in the third and final group game. This turned out to be the easiest of the three matches, with the Seaweeds running out winners by 42–7. The scorers for this game were Brandon, Ben Roach, Ben Collins, Callum Morgan, Max Budding and Kurtis Pridmore. Brandon converted four tries, with Louis and Ben Collins converting the other two.

Abertillery were Porthcawl's opponents in the semi-final and, as in the previous three games, the Green and Blacks swept them aside by 47–0. Tries were scored by Louis, Ben Roach, Brandon, Ethan Waters, Harry Nichols (two) and Max Budding. Harry Nichols converted one with Brandon grabbing the other five.

As expected, Porthcawl met home side Brecon after they cruised to the final as well.

The Seaweeds were now playing some free flowing rugby and went for the jugular from the kick off. Within seconds, Brandon crossed the line first, and Louis followed shortly afterwards with two more.

Harry Evans chalked up his first of the day and Callum Morgan crowned a fantastic team display scoring Porthcawl's fifth. Brandon converted all five, making the final score 35–0.

This latest success was this group of players' eighth tournament victory in three years. Congratulations to them all!

Rest of squad: Dan Williams, Ioan Clatworthy, Ben Davies and Lloyd Mortimer. **IB**

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